

Talks to end steel strike fail in confusion

Misunderstanding led to the failure yesterday of talks to bring about the end of the national steel strike, which is expected to go on for another three weeks. The unions had believed more money was on offer; the BSC negotiators said they were mistaken.

Unions believed extra cash was available

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Peace talks designed to bring an early end to the national steel strike collapsed within minutes yesterday amid bitter recriminations on both sides. The shut down of state and private sector steelmaking could last another three weeks.

Lay negotiators of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and the National Union of Blastfurnacemen (NUB) walked out of the first round of full-scale negotiations since the strike began on January 2 after learning the details of the British Steel Corporation's revised offer.

The breakdown came only 20 minutes after Dr David Grieve, BSC's managing director for personnel, told union leaders they were mistaken in thinking that 13 per cent increases were on offer.

The negotiations had been arranged by Mr William Sims, general secretary of the ISTC, after secret talks in Luxembourg five days ago. Both he and Mr Hector Smith, the blastfurnacemen's leader, formed the impression that the full package was on offer to all workers from January 1, but BSC maintained last night that all along it had made clear its insistence that 4 per cent of the 13 per cent could be paid only after agreement on productivity deals at local level.

This misunderstanding was fatal to the most promising peace initiative since the strike began and union leaders are now privately saying that the shutdown could last until the end of February.

Officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), whose patient efforts to bring the two sides together have failed, have been in touch with British Steel management and are seeking a meeting with the unions. But the prospects of an early resumption of negotiations are poor.

Mr Robert Scholey, BSC's chief executive, accused the ISTC general secretary of "kiss flying" in his interpretation of the Luxembourg peace formula and building up expectations among the men that could not be realised by the loss-making state corporation.

The lay negotiators attended the talks with badges demanding 20 per cent rises, though this is not official union policy.

Mr Sims said: "I do not tell lies. The corporation sold to us a proposal that there would be 13 per cent on the table. Scholey was talking about 14 per cent, but that would be the limit."

If the package had been presented originally in the way it was put yesterday, he added, the talks would never have been arranged.

The letter outlining the offer was sent to the steel unions three days ago. It proposes 2 per cent across the board, as offered two months ago; a further general increase of 7 per

cent to "line up with" an agreement on job flexibility, demanning and reformed pay bargaining structures; and a 4 per cent minimum guaranteed against which locally determined productivity schemes would be paid.

After informal exchanges in Luxembourg and later by telephone in London, union leaders interpreted this ambiguous package to mean 9 per cent plus 4 per cent enabling agreement to get local productivity bargaining off the ground.

BSC management, Mr Sims says, was given several opportunities to disagree with this interpretation but did not. Executives involved in the talks insist that they did, and Mr Scholey said last night that the public "have to choose" which version of events to believe.

Government ministers reacted to the fresh collapse of negotiations with dismay. Militant strikers in south Yorkshire may once again threaten the future of millions of pounds worth of plants by withdrawing safety cover, and 14,000 lorry drivers in the North-east have been told by their union not to cross any ISTC picket lines.

Mr Sims promised last night: "We will prosecute this strike with the greatest degree of intensity within the laws of the country." He gave a warning that if a settlement was not found soon the pay dispute would be drawn into the campaign against BSC's plant closure programme.

"If that happens, it will envelop the nation in a much more disastrous situation than we are in at the moment," he said.

Negotiations with leaders of 11 unions representing some 70,000 craft and general workers in British Steel are to resume tomorrow but the two main steel unions say they will not join them in accepting a corporation document consisting of both sides to change in collective bargaining machinery, a timetable for reducing manning negotiations, modification of the industry's guaranteed working week, job flexibility, a common wage structure and other concessions.

The ISTC general secretary has drawn up an alternative agreement, which concedes the corporation's targets in more general terms. It talks of "achieving international manning standards at ongoing plants to achieve the highest level of productivity pay and conditions in line with overseas competitors."

That is the part of the package for which BSC has so far offered a 7 per cent general increase.

However, this document has not even been seen by BSC management because of the sudden collapse of negotiations yesterday. It is unlikely to be accepted in its present form because it is too loosely worded.

Other steel news and photograph, page 2



Lord Soames at Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia, where a gloomy view of political coercion was presented to him yesterday by his election supervisors. Report, page 4.

Callaghan triumph over leftists

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

After the first meeting yesterday of the commission of inquiry to formulate changes in the organization of the Labour Party, it was clear that Mr James Callaghan, the Opposition leader, will insist on an investigation into the infiltration of local parties by left-wing extremists.

The three-hour meeting of the inquiry commission, in the Opposition leader's room at the House of Commons, was not without its moments of acrimony, but for Mr Callaghan and the moderate Labour MPs who had complained about the left-wing weighting of the membership, it must be reckoned something of a success.

On paper, the balance within the commission is eight to five in favour of the left wing, giving a membership that seemed likely to endorse demands for a change in the methods of electing the party leader and drafting the party manifesto, and for "reselection" of Labour MPs and candidates.

But there is a chance for a "consensus" view to emerge because yesterday the commission (with two absentees) agreed to Mr Callaghan's proposition that there should be not one chairman, but three "co-chairmen", and that representatives of all sections of the party will be co-opted on the three subcommittees.

"Panels" which are to review particular aspects of party organization.

It was Mr Callaghan who proposed that there should be a triumvirate chairmanship consisting of Mr David Eastman, general secretary of the General

Abortion compromise of 24 weeks likely

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Members of Parliament on both sides of the abortion argument yesterday appeared to be moving towards a compromise where a pregnancy could be ended if it had lasted for no more than 24 weeks. That compares with the 28 weeks in Mr David Steel's 1967 Act, and the 20 weeks proposed in Mr John Corrie's Abortion (Amendment) Bill, which was before the House of Commons yesterday.

The main argument for 24 weeks was based on the view that medical opinion appeared to be saying that before that date the fetus would not be capable of sustaining an independent existence. Progress made yesterday clearly indicates that the present Bill, whether amended or not, has little chance of being enacted unless the Government, as seems unlikely, comes to its rescue.

In the closing moments of the sitting, after almost five hours of peaceful and well-argued debate, there was a sudden rush of blood to the heads of some of the more extreme opponents of the Bill in the public gallery. As attendants leapt into action to quell the uproar, one group of protesters hung a lengthy banner over the edge of the gallery, and there were shouts of "Women will not obey your Bill" and "Women's choice".

Most of the 25 or so women involved were marched out of the gallery more or less peacefully, but a youth appeared to be pushing up an unnecessary show of strength as he struggled and kicked against efforts to remove him. Within two minutes peace was restored.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Afghanistan leader says the Russians will stay

From Kuldip Nayar
Kabul, Feb 8

President Babrak Karmal, of Afghanistan, has said that it is neither possible nor necessary to set any time limit for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from his country.

"They are here to consolidate the gains of our revolution, protect our land and secure peace in the region," he said. "As long as there are dangers from outside, the Russians will stay."

Mr Karmal is not opposed to any regional initiative but does not want General Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan to play any role in it, according to the Afghan Press.

In an exclusive interview, Mr Karmal told me that the Russians would leave only when proper conditions were created, and when "all signs of aggression against us are eliminated."

He was quite firm on the need for a Soviet presence in the country and gave me the impression that the withdrawal of Russian forces came nowhere in his priorities.

The two-hour interview took place in the same place where I had interviewed the late President Mohamed Daoud six years ago. The palace is heavily guarded by Russian soldiers and has been named People's House.

When pressed to spell out conditions for the Russian withdrawal, he said: "The day reactionary Pakistan, Chauvinist China, imperialist America and Britain and Zionist Egypt are defeated in their ugly plans to dismember Afghanistan, the Russians will go back."

Mr Karmal is austere in his dress and forthright in his expression. He is a chain-smoker and while I was with him smoked only expensive American cigarettes.

Whenever he referred to Russian troops, he would say: "A limited contingent has come." Asked if this was a correct description for a large Soviet force, Mr Karmal said:

"This is propaganda by the BBC, the Voice of America and the Western media. I tell you with full responsibility that the contingent is very small." (The Russian troops in Afghanistan are put at between 90,000 and 95,000.)

Explaining how the Russian intervention took place, Mr Karmal said that the first approach was made by the late Hafizullah Amin about December 15. Open and underground "progressive elements" forced him to do so.

He went along because he did not want the mask of a CIA agent to fall. Later when we took over, we endorsed his request. It is the same way as you (India) went to Bangladesh at the request of the people to stop Pakistan's atrocities."

Mr Karmal alleged that there had been a joint plot by the Americans, the Chinese and the Pakistanis to attack Afghanistan on January 6. But the Russian forces which arrived on December 27 foiled the plot. Ten days later it would have been too late.

He dwelt at length on his theory of conspiracy and mentioned Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel as "partners of America, China and Pakistan."

In fact, the plan of the Western imperialists and Zionist forces included Pakistan's scheme to take revenge on India for the liberation of Bangladesh. Islamabad wanted to grab Kashmir, Mr Karmal said.

"Pakistan is a springboard of imperialism," he added. "The Americans and the Chinese are pouring in their arms. Ships after ships are coming to Karachi to unload weapons and the Karakoram road is being used by the Chinese to send armaments to Islamabad."

"These weapons are being distributed among the bandits who are being trained by the

French rejection ends US hope for summit on Soviet intervention

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 8

An American proposal that the foreign ministers of the four main West European countries and the United States meet in Bonn to discuss a joint Western response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has failed because of objections by the French.

The United States had suggested that the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Italy and West Germany meet Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State on February 20, the deadline set by President Carter for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on pain of an American boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games.

They would have been expected to discuss European support for the boycott and other joint measures by the West against the Soviet Union.

A cryptic statement by Dr Jürgen Sudhoff, the West German Foreign Ministry spokesman, that there were "no indications" that such a meeting would take place came after a day of uncertainty with leaks from Washington, Bonn, and fresh leaks from Bonn.

Herr Klaus Bölling, the Bonn Government spokesman, said his Government hoped that intensive consultations between the Western allies would continue in the coming weeks. But it did not wish to persuade anyone that this should take the "dramaturgical form" of a meeting.

Anxious not to take steps which could affect relations with East Germany, the Bonn Government sees its main contribution as providing generous aid to Turkey, Pakistan and other countries on the fringe of the crisis area.

Dr Sudhoff has pointed out that the European ministers will see each other at the EEC foreign ministers' meeting in Rome on February 19. The visit of Mr Vance to Bonn for talks on February 20 and 21 remained unchanged.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the Opposition leader, said today that a summit of Western heads of government was "long overdue" and would be an outstanding demonstration of Western solidarity.

French fear block: France has refused to take part in the proposed meeting because President Giscard d'Estaing wants to avoid at all costs being part of an American-oriented pressure block (Ian Murray writes from Paris).

The French Foreign Ministry said this evening that France had never been formally invited to the meeting on February 20.

"There has never been any question of a meeting of this type, and if there was a question of there being one the French Minister of Foreign Affairs would not participate in it," a spokesman said.

While deprecating the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, the French President feels that the interests of peace are ill-served by Western Europe seeming to lose its identity by becoming a sounding board for American opinions.

France has already told the Russians that the invasion of Afghanistan is "unacceptable". A timetable for withdrawal and an explanation of how that timetable could be carried out were the only criteria by which Soviet good intentions should be judged, M Jean François-Poncet, the Foreign Minister, has said.

The French coolness towards the meeting proposed by Mr Vance should not, therefore, be viewed as an indication that France condones what has happened in Afghanistan. It is merely a further manifestation of France's traditional need to be heard as an independent voice.

Japan excluded: Mr Saburo Okita, the Japanese Foreign Minister, told a House of Representatives budget committee in Tokyo that since "no formal invitation to such a conference had been extended to us, there is no reason that Japan should invite itself to attend" (Our Tokyo Correspondent writes).

Mr Okita indicated that a separate American-Japanese talk on sanctions against the Soviet Union was a possibility.

American regret: Officials in Washington were disappointed by France's decision not to attend the proposed meeting. They said the West's many had suggested the meeting.

Reuter.

Denning visit to Oxford is cancelled after protest plan

From Our Correspondent
Oxford

Blackwells, the Oxford bookshop, has cancelled a signing session today by Lord Denning, the Master of the Rolls.

A group known as the Oxford Student Trades Union Liaison Committee had called for a mass demonstration outside the shop in protest at Lord Denning's visit.

But yesterday when the shop found Oxford "plastered with posters", it decided to cancel the visit.

Butterworths, the London publishers of Lord Denning's book, *The Due Process of Law*, said: "We are disappointed that Lord Denning has not chickened out."

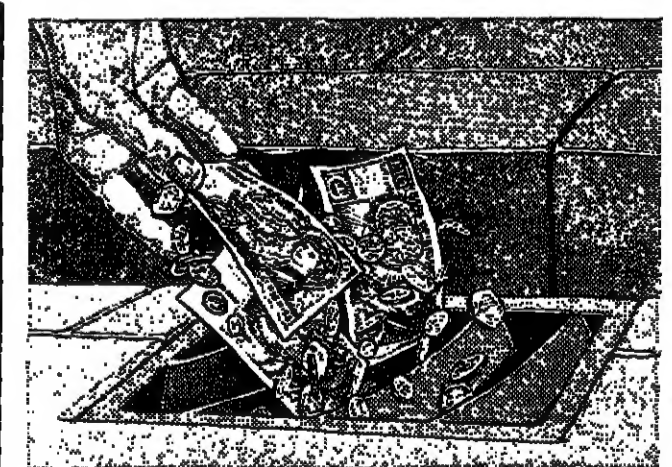
Blackwells said: "The object of a signing session is to create a congenial and relaxed atmosphere where an author can meet his public and sell his book by his presence."

"The essential condition for a successful and happy signing have evaporated, and we decided in the best interests of staff and customers to cancel the session."

Mr Martin Hill, aged 27, a member of the liaison committee, which is composed of trade union branch representatives and student union branches, said the protest had been called because Lord Denning had shown himself a "dedicated enemy of the working class and the trade union movement."

He added: "We did not intend to prevent him from coming. We wanted to put our political views to him." Blackwells had been forced to climb down in the face of a "peaceful demonstration."

A group of steel workers from Rotherham had planned to march to Oxford to put their case to Lord Denning.



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CBI chief urges cool line on union legislation

A calm approach to new industrial relations legislation was urged by Sir John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, actions and should also look to their own employees "as communicate with their employees" as they have never done before. He gave a warning that hasty legislation without proper consultation could be disastrous. But the CBI leader faces growing pressure from within the confederation for tougher representations on the Government's Employment Bill.

GEC tops Racial bid

The battle to take over Decca seems to be reaching its final stages. General Electric rounded off a hectic week of bid and counter-bid with an offer which could be worth more than £100m. Racial Electronics, its opponent, will decide by Monday whether to continue the fight.

Hebron under curfew

The West Bank town of Hebron was early this week under curfew, eight days after the murder of a young Jewish settler, as Arab Army squads continued raids on Jewish houses. Foreign correspondents were allowed into the prohibited area in the town centre.

Labour anger on Chile

Mr Peter Shore, Labour's spokesman on the foreign affairs, joined the protest over the Government's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with Chile.

Ulster Catholics in new political drive

Roman Catholic politicians in Northern Ireland are to take the initiative over their call for an "Irish dimension" in the Government's political formula for Ulster. The non-sectarian Alliance Party is to join the "parallel conference" at Stormont which is discussing subjects relevant to that ideal.

Royal corrections

A second edition of Queen Victoria's Children, a book by Daphne Bennett, will contain corrections after an approach to the publishers by the Assistant Keeper of the Queen's Archives at Windsor. Mrs Bennett admits failing to show her manuscript to the archive office, having undertaken to do so.

Envoy describes ordeal

The Spanish Ambassador to Guatemala has described his ordeal when the embassy was seized. When police broke in to his office, extremists threw three petrol bombs, the last of which ignited. He escaped by rolling down the stairs with his clothes on fire. Shots were fired after him.

Nuclear waste: Snowdonia is among four areas designated for possible storage and a protest rally is likely

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Farming statistics 'sorry reading'

Farmers complain that the latest official statistics for the industry make "sorry reading", with net output and farmers' incomes down and bank borrowing up. Their union calls for prompt government action. The Minister of Agriculture, how-

Leader page, 13

Letters: On trade unions and the law, from Mr John Lyons, and others; on a Greek home for the Olympics, from Mr B. F. Cook

Features: page 12 Michael Freuchman finds a good word for the maligned Vikings; Geraldine Norman on the Sotheby's career of Mr Peter Wilson

Arts: page 8 John Higgins on Gemma Jones in *Very Like a Whale*; John Percival reviews Ronald Rynd's new ballet *Papillon*; David Wade on the week's radio

Obituary: page 14 Mr Leslie Welch, M Robert Lill, and Mr Richard Williams

Sport: pages 15, 16 Football: Liverpool make first change for 18 matches; Golf: Oosthuis stars well in Hawaiian Open; Cricket: West Indies in trouble against New Zealand; Olympic Games: Programme for Lake Placid

Business: Equities retreated on breakdown in steel talks, closely followed by gilts. Oils encountered heavy buying and the FT index closed 1.5 off at 461.4.

Personal investment and finance: Putting a price on your possessions and your home

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BL workers seem unwilling to back Robinson strike

By David Felton and Donald Macintyre

Feelings at BL's Longbridge plant in Birmingham last night appeared to be running strongly against the engineering workers' strike in support of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed communist union convenor due to start next week.

Workers leaving the Austin Morris plant claimed that 80 per cent of the work force were opposed to the strike. There were reports that Mr Robinson's toolroom colleagues had called on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to hold a ballot on the strike.

The union's Birmingham West District Committee, which met last night, is to convene a meeting of more than 200 shop stewards at Longbridge on Monday.

Mr Bert Benson, the district secretary, said he was expecting shop stewards meanwhile to have taken soundings through sectional meetings of the feelings of the membership. He would take action on any complaints that stewards had not held meetings in their sections.

He said: "After Monday's meeting I am confident that we shall be in a situation to reiterate that there will be support for the strike."

If the strike by 6,000 engineering workers goes ahead, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Longbridge will be expected to give their support and not cross picket lines.

The TGWU suspended strike action at the end of last year

HOME NEWS

Farmers complain of decline but minister says they can compete

By Nicholas Timmins

Net agricultural output fell by 31 per cent last year, with farmers' incomes down 17 per cent in real terms, bank borrowings up 30 per cent to an estimated £2,500m, more than 70 per cent higher than in 1977, and productivity down, according to figures published yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The decline came after the harsh winter of 1979 and a cold, wet spring, and in spite of record harvests of cereals and sugar beet.

The figures, published in the *Annual Review of Agriculture*, were described as "sorry reading" by Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, who called for prompt government action to stop a bad situation getting worse.

But they brought a robust reply from Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who blamed the Labour Government's "green pound" for devaluing the "green pound". There had not been time since May for the new Government's policies to have much impact in 1979, he said in a parliamentary written reply.

"Since then we have taken a number of significant steps to improve producers' incomes. We have announced three devaluations of the green pound, two increases in the price of milk and substantial increases in the hill livestock compensation allowances," he said.

"The devaluations, combined with the strength of sterling, have removed the discrimination against British agriculture that has existed for many years. The industry is now in a position to compete fairly in the European market."

Whatever the future, the report paints a bleak picture of 1979. Costs were up 13 per cent, but prices by only 11 per cent. Farmers' incomes dropped in real terms by 17 per cent after an 11 per cent fall in 1977, with net incomes estimated at £1,193,000 or 51 per cent down on 1978.

The dairy herd and milk production increased slightly. But the beef herd fell by nearly 3 per cent. Home produced beef was down by 1 per cent, and the lamb crop by 3 per cent despite an increase in the sheep-breeding herd. The pig-breeding herd began to contract again, and although production of pigmeat was up in 1979, it is expected to fall this year. Egg production fell, and less land was again devoted to horticulture.

Bank borrowings rose sharply, and while some of it was for land purchase and building and works investment, borrowing for ordinary farming purposes also rose. Interest payments were estimated at £318m, more than double the 1977 figure.

Labour productivity declined by an estimated 21 per cent, an average 31 per cent increase over the past decade and an increase of 8 per cent in 1979, while the number of whole-time workers declined again, as did the number of farms, to about 257,000.

Mr Butler said that with costs up, income down, interest charges and inflation high, "many farmers and growers will face acute financial difficulties this year."

On Thursday the EEC Commission proposed that guaranteed prices should rise by an average of only 2.4 per cent this year, against the farmers' demand for a 7.9 per cent increase.

Author drops a brick and down comes a ton from the royal archives

By Trevor Fishlock

A new history of Queen Victoria's children is to be corrected in its second edition after an approach to the publishers by Sir Robin Mackworth Young, Assistant Keeper to the Queen's Archives at Windsor.

The book, *Queen Victoria's Children*, was written by Daphne Bennett, and published a week ago by Gollancz. The first edition is almost sold out and the publishers have agreed to print a second. But before that happens there will be negotiations between Sir Robin and Mr David Bennett, Gollancz's deputy managing director, over changes in the text that Sir Robin would like.

The root of the matter is Mrs Bennett's breaking of a golden rule. Like all those permitted to research in the royal archives, she signed an undertaking to return her completed manuscript to the archive office. But she forgot to do so.

"Now Sir Robin has come down on me like a ton of bricks," she said at her home in Cambridge yesterday. "It is entirely my fault and I have no excuse. I have stepped out of line and if you step out of line with such people I'm afraid you are for it. And, oh dear, there are one or two people in the literary world who would like to see me chopped up."

"I have been told of some of Sir Robin's complaints and they do seem to be nagging little things. And the things he is complaining about were not drawn from royal archive material. They came from other sources."

"I don't think he has any right to order changes, but if he wants some minor corrections or a few words softened I will be happy to help; but when he says I am right I shall naturally stand by what I wrote."

"My book is a happy book, showing what excellent parents Albert and Victoria were. I sent the Queen a copy and had a lovely warm reply. 'But Sir Robin seems upset and so I must try to placate him. I'm sure he is a reasonable man at heart.'"

"At Gollancz, Mr Bennett said: 'The author has tripped over the protocol and the Assistant Keeper of the Archives has justifiably complained. It was Mrs Bennett's gaffe, and she is upset about it: she is a serious and scholarly writer.'"

There is no question of the Palace trying to censor the book. Mrs Bennett is entitled to draw her conclusions from the material she has researched. Sir Robin is interested in matters of fact and I hope to discuss with him next week the corrections that might be made in the second edition.

"Access to the Queen's Archives is, of course, a privilege and people are expected to abide by the rules. And the archive office will point out any errors in a completed manuscript."

At Windsor last night Sir Robin said: "We never take it upon ourselves to censor a book. The archives, however, are private and so we ask people to whom we give permission to research here to agree to show us their completed work. In this case the agreement was not respected. There will be further contact with the publisher."

After a further 24 hours of torrential rain large areas of South Wales from the Neath valley in West Glamorgan to Gwent were threatened by floods. Late yesterday the water was beginning to subside, although flood alerts were still in operation in some areas.

But, with more rain forecast, many villagers believe the situation could get worse. According to the meteorological office at Cardiff, the average rainfall for February there is less than two-and-a-half inches. So far this month nearly three inches have fallen. The worst affected area was

Chief inspector finds missing girl in street

Suzanne Ward, aged 15, the schoolgirl who had been missing for two weeks was found safe and well at Bournemouth yesterday and taken to her parents' home at Bushey, Hertfordshire.

Her sister Caroline said that Suzanne was discovered by Chief Inspector Robert Green, who had gone to Bournemouth to help to look for her.

"He spotted her in the street as he was driving to the local police station. He had told us it would take two or three days at least to find her, but he just saw her walking alone."



It's a dog's life for this mastiff on the opening day of Cruft's Dog Show at Earls Court, London, yesterday.

DPP to give evidence in public

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, is to give evidence in public to the House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs about deaths in police custody.

He has provided the committee with a written memorandum. His appearance next Thursday, as foreshadowed in *The Times*, represents a shift of opinion in the Government which has maintained that law officers should be outside the committee's remit.

Further evidence from other bodies indicates the committee's widening of interest in the subject.

The Police Federation, which will appear on Monday to answer questions about the law relating to public order, processions and public meetings, is also giving evidence in public on deaths in police custody.

The Coroners' Society and the British Association in Forensic Medicine will be appearing on Thursday.

The Metropolitan Police and the Association of Chief Police Officers will provide evidence about public order on February 18.

MP supports parents over sex education

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr George Gardiner, a Conservative backbench MP, has tabled a clause to the Government Education Bill which would give parents the right to know what their children are being taught in sex education classes, and to withdraw them if they wish.

Mr Gardiner, MP for Reigate, said: "Some of the sex education material available today makes parents' hair stand on end—if they ever see it. I possess primed material that even treats bestiality and incest in a totally neutral and amoral way."

"If parents want to adopt this approach, then let it be. But if they want to give their children sexual guidance in a context of moral values and responsibility, then they should be able to reject any school courses of a strictly functional, amoral nature that conflict with this."

Mr Gardiner cited *Make It Happen*, by Jane Cousins, as an example of a book which treated bestiality and incest in an amoral way. The book, published by Virago, was designed to give guidance on a wide range of sexual matters to children aged between 13 and 16, won *The Times Educational Supplement's* senior information book award last year. It has sold more than 10,000 copies since it was published 18 months ago.

Many parents have been shocked by its explicit treatment of taboo subjects.

Welsh villages 'in constant fear' of floods

From Our Correspondent

The Rhondda, Ar Trehafer residents protested at a meeting arranged at short notice with representatives of the Welsh Water Authority and local councils.

Mr Graham Prosser, chairman of the village flood prevention committee, said it was a very angry meeting. "People are living in fear of their lives," he said. It would cost £250,000 to make their village safe. They had been assured that a full inspection of the work required would be carried out on Monday.

The 250 villagers of Rhondda, who have still not recovered from the fast inundation on December 27, were facing a full emergency alert which is not due to be lifted until tonight if there is no more rain.

The village was cut off yesterday morning after a culvert carrying the small river Selsig

was blocked. Residents filled sandbags because county council workers were on strike. Later the workers were allowed to help.

Occupied the Rhondda offices at Penarth protesting at the risk they face from floods.

Mr Mary Evans, aged 27, who is married, with a two-year-old son and expecting another child in May, whose husband gave the alarm early yesterday, said: "This proves our point. People are beginning to live on their nerves. The community spirit is there but people are getting tense. It is only natural, living with the constant fear of floods and possibly a landslide."

Mr Gwyn Evans, Rhondda Borough Council chief executive, said the council had put a scheme costing £400,000 for the village to the Welsh Office five weeks ago.

Controls on college courses to be tighter

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Strict criteria for the approval of new advanced courses in polytechnics and other maintained colleges will be sent to local education authorities in a circular from the Department of Education and Science next week.

All advanced courses in the maintained sector have to be approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, who has the complementary power to direct that such courses be discontinued.

In practice these controls are operated by regional staff inspectors, except in the case of teacher training courses.

The inspectors have considered new proposals and the light of criteria laid down during a period of expansion, the circular says. In the coming period of level funding it would be necessary to re-examine those criteria.

The department would consult local authorities about its proposals for the medium and long term.

In the short term, no new courses would be approved unless there was clear evidence of unmet student demand; and no new course, or amendment to an existing one, would be approved unless existing

resources of staff in post, equipment and accommodation allowed for the new course.

The only exception which might be considered would be a course to meet an expressed vocational need and provide students with specific employment opportunities, the circular says.

Courses recruiting for the first time in 1980 or 1981 would be expected to achieve, or come close to, the minimum enrolment figure for advanced courses of 24 students. Few exceptions would be made.

Existing courses would also be expected to adhere to the specified minimum enrolment figure, although there would be some flexibility.

All courses, including teacher training courses, would be reviewed in the light of similar courses in other institutions. Undue duplication would be avoided.

The Government has announced that it will hold the "pool" for home students in advanced further education in the maintained sector at £375m in 1980-81, which is about the same as in 1979-80, but nine per cent less than the local authorities were asking for.

The introduction of full cost fees for foreign students next September could have a dramatic effect on provision.

'Two lakes' inquiry will continue until May

From Our Correspondent

The "two lakes" inquiry in Whitehaven could become one of the longest public inquiries in English history.

Mr Denis Komlosy, a Department of the Environment inspector, said yesterday that the proceedings would continue until May.

The inquiry, which began on January 15, is considering two schemes to raise the levels of Ennerdale Lake and West Water, in the Lake District.

The North West Water Authority wants more water for industrial waste treatment and to make it more available to the Lake District.

Mr Komlosy said the expected finishing date would now be early May, although a final decision would be spent visiting the sites.

He said that extra surveys, statistics and plans were being prepared by the NWWA to give additional information on its proposals.

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PARLIAMENT, February 8, 1980

Warning from former minister of effect of proposed change in law on time limit for abortions

House of Commons

In its present form the Abortion (Amendment) Bill would lead to more mothers dying at child birth, most children being born handicapped, more unwanted and unwanted children, and more social problems, Mr David Gammans (Norwich, North, Lab), former Secretary of State for Social Security, said in the report stage of the Bill began.

He was moving a new clause which would amend the Infant Life (Preservation) Act of 1929 by replacing the words "child capable of being born alive" with "child capable of surviving independent life", and stating that a child was capable of sustaining independent life if and only if the woman has been pregnant for a period of 24 weeks or more.

The new clause was considered with an amendment to Clause 2 (Termination of pregnancy without regard to time limit under section 1 in certain grave cases) replacing the words "being born alive" with "sustaining independent life".

Mr Gammans said this discussion concerned the issue of what was life. Did life in the sense of terminating life begin at conception? It could be argued that every part of a person's body was alive. Nobody would say that no part of a live human being should be removed under any circumstances. Some men and women had the heart, kidneys or eyes of another human being now dead, and the other extreme there were women who had died in the prime of their lives because an abortion was carried out at the right time.

There were children born congenitally handicapped for the same reasons, sometimes grossly handicapped, and the rest of their life was a struggle. What was life in the context of the Bill? No one would be evil enough to wish to destroy a human life. Every human being had a right to life.

Surely the said a live child is one capable of sustaining a life of its own. It is the thesis they sought to set forth in the new clause and amendment.

Mr Gammans said the Bill, if it contained Clause 1 without the amendment and the new clause, it would mean more backstreet abortions, more deaths, more suffering to the children whose objective would be to earn their living as they did before the 1967 Act at the expense of an unborn child.

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placed if the Bill went through. "What is life?" was the deepest moral issue the House faced and MPs as representatives of their constituents must face up to the moral problems with courage.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said the reason they had sought to deal with the question of viability was that it was partly because of cases of a foetus on a slab which made a noise and it was therefore assumed that it was viable and capable of independent life.

These cases had repeatedly hit the headlines and one after another they had been shown down by independent medical opinions by the Department of Health.

It was therefore proposed to re-define viability, mainly to ensure that a doctor would not be prosecuted for aborting a foetus which showed signs of life but which nevertheless was incapable of maintaining an independent existence.

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex, C) said every day of the week there were abortions on demand either in private clinics or, in some cases, NHS hospitals. He had a great deal to say about the new clause, certificate A, which had to be completed by two doctors acting in good faith. In this case, a doctor referred a patient to a well-known hospital saying that in his opinion there were no grounds for termination, but that the doctor ought to be considered.

A termination was carried out and the certificate in question was signed by the doctor. The discharge certificate, which was sent to the patient's general practitioner, gave the diagnosis: "The foetus was viable and capable of independent life."

That, he said, was an illegal operation. The law has not been complied with by the doctor who carried it out. This sort of thing is illegal, it is disgraceful, and it is taking place every day of the week.

Mr Gammans said this discussion concerned the issue of what was life. Did life in the sense of terminating life begin at conception? It could be argued that every part of a person's body was alive. Nobody would say that no part of a live human being should be removed under any circumstances. Some men and women had the heart, kidneys or eyes of another human being now dead, and the other extreme there were women who had died in the prime of their lives because an abortion was carried out at the right time.

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Law Report February 8 1980

Court of Appeal

WEST EUROPE

Siege ambassador rolled down stairs with clothes ablaze

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Feb 8

Señor Marcelino Oreja, the Spanish Foreign Minister, dispelled all doubts about how the fatal fire started at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City last week, answering questions in Parliament, he rejected right-wing allegations that Spain's embassies are under attack because the Madrid Government is secretly trying to overthrow certain Latin American regimes.

Señor Oreja's remarks were made during a meeting of the foreign relations committee of the Congress of Deputies (Lower House), but the text was distributed today.

He quoted to the deputies the account given by Señor Maximino Cajal, the Ambassador, of the occupation, police assault and fire which resulted in 39 deaths in Guatemala City.

When against his expressed wish the police broke into the embassy, the group which had taken over the building requested that the police should desist. When the police broke down the door, one of the extremists threw a petrol bomb which did not ignite.

Another tossed a lighted match on the floor, and the ambassador stamped it out. Then the occupiers threw another fire bomb at the police. The whole room caught fire as the bomb exploded.

The ambassador then threw himself through the now open door, and rolled down the stairs in flames. Shot were fired from inside the burning room, but apparently not by the police.

The ambassador managed to extinguish his burning clothes, and was taken to the local police station and then to hospital.

The only other survivor who reached the hospital was one of the farm workers who had occupied the embassy. He was kidnapped from the hospital last Friday and his bullet-riddled body was later dumped on to the university campus.

During the committee meeting, Señor Blas Pinar the leader of the right-wing New Force party, called for the creation of a committee to investigate relations with Guatemala and expressing "concern about the persistence in Latin America of regimes which do not respect human rights", was approved.

Nureyev dispute prevents Paris ballet tour in US

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 8

The planned month-long tour of the United States by France's leading dance company, the Paris Opera Ballet, has been called off. The principal reason has been the failure so far to find a way in which the dancers will accept Rudolf Nureyev as a guest star in the company.

The 154 dancers who make up the Paris Opera Ballet have become increasingly angry and militant in recent months. They consider themselves treated as second-class citizens by the Opera management even though every performance plays to audiences which average 100 per cent of the available seating.

In the first instance, the dancers believe that ballet is not second to opera in the organized programme, with performances slotted in simply to fill the holes left when the opera season has been agreed.

They are even more concerned that as dancers they take second place to imported stars. They argue that the management is reactionary and not prepared to try new styles, and is unwilling to listen to their point of view about choreographers or suitable ballets.

The proposed tour to the United States was causing trouble on most of these counts. For one thing the programme was to include *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra*.

The film showing police torture seized in Spain

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Feb 8

Military authorities seized all available copies of a new Spanish film about a crime involving police torture, which has been sentenced to long prison terms for the murder of a shepherd, after being tortured into confessing by the paramilitary Civil Guard police.

Thirteen years later, their "victim" turned up, safe and sound. The crime, as presented in the film, was about the injustice done to them, than the non-existent murder.

Police, acting on orders from the military, confiscated copies of the film in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville and Bilbao last week, without giving any reason, according to Señior Alfredo Maras, the producer.

Mayor loses fight against home for the handicapped

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 8

Mr Georges Gabin, the 70-year-old bachelor mayor of Villetaneuse-Candide in the Seine-Saint-Denis, has been stopped by the State Council from trying to close a holiday home for the handicapped in his beautiful village.

The home was opened in 1973 when the National Belgian League for the Aid of Cerebral Paralysis bought the little chateau which fronts on the Place Montcalm, just opposite the town hall. Since then it has been in regular use by groups of about a dozen handicapped children and young people, who have come for a fortnight's break in the south of France.

Increasingly, however, M. Gabin and a few of the village's 300 inhabitants began to resent the colony and things came to a head when the village pump clogged up. M. Gabin went to the administrative tribunal in Nîmes to ask for the colony's licence to be withdrawn.

The village pump argument was the best one M. Gabin had politically. Otherwise he argued that village children, right at the sight of the handicapped people and that pregnant women were badly affected whenever they saw them.

Portugal fixes food price rise of 15 pc

Lisbon, Feb 8

The Portuguese Government today fixed new basic food prices at an average of about 15 per cent above last year's prices.

Señor Basilio Horta, the Trade and Tourism Minister, told a press conference that the new "shopping basket" list, compiled by the country's first right-wing Government since the 1974 revolution, would take effect with its publication in the *Official Journal*, perhaps on Monday.

The biggest increase is in the price of sugar which will go up by 25 per cent. The smallest increase was for pasteurised milk, which goes up by 10 per cent. The price increases compared with 1977 and 1978, 23 per cent in 1977 and 22 per cent in 1978.

Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, the Prime Minister, is due to go on television and radio on Wednesday to explain his government's tough austerity programme.

Reuter.

More significant, perhaps, was his argument that the municipal camp site figures had gone down by 2,000 to 3,000 a year since the colony was started, and that the price of property in the vicinity was falling.

M. Gabin had some support on the local council, over which he has presided for the past 33 years. But some members were so angry at M. Gabin's stand that they resigned, forcing by-elections which meant that the mayor no longer has a majority in his own council chamber.

The Nîmes tribunal rejected M. Gabin's request. He decided then to take the case to the State Council, which yesterday gave judgment in favour of the colony. Only for reasons of morals, safety, health or local welfare could the licence be withdrawn, it ruled.

OVERSEAS



At the edge of a village near Kabul two amphibious troop carriers of the Soviet Army stand in position behind a snow-covered emplacement.

Moscow adds its most advanced weapons to Kabul arsenal

From Robert Fisk

Kabul, Feb 8

The Soviet Union, which has continued its military build-up around Kabul with two Tu-16 76 transport aircraft filled with military and civilian personnel, has brought some of its most sophisticated weapons into Afghanistan.

New self-propelled automatic anti-aircraft guns are being deployed around the capital and many of the Soviet helicopter gunships now have complex night-vision equipment which enables them to see in the dark.

The weight of Soviet armour which is crossing the Amu

Darya river at two points and heading south across the Hindu Kush mountains is unprecedented. Lorries fitted with multiple-rocket launchers, the so-called Stalin Organs, are being moved to Kabul and the number of T-72 tanks, the latest medium battle tanks in the Soviet arsenal, deployed here, has increased sharply in the past two days.

There are now 12 T-72s on a five-mile section of the Salang Pass and several dozen more are parked on the northern foothills of the Hindu Kush near the village of Dushi. Around the centre of Kabul, where Soviet armour has rarely been seen in the past few

weeks, a number of BMD tracked troop carriers can be seen parked near road junctions. These vehicles are fitted with mounted tracks for Sagar anti-tank missiles and include modifications enabling them to be amphibious.

Many of the new anti-aircraft vehicles have been placed in the snow near Kabul international airport. Tracked armoured carriers mounted with four heavy machine guns, they are fitted with radar and are self-contained anti-aircraft units. Nato has nothing to match them.

The Mi24 helicopter gunships that have appeared over Kabul and Jalalabad are equipped

with four rockets on fixed pods underneath. Opaque plastic domes have also been fitted to the underneath of the hulls and give the aircraft a curious appearance.

The domes are believed to contain television X-Ray apparatus which allows the co-pilot to receive clear pictures of the ground when it is dark. Such equipment would be of obvious use in attacking insurgent positions in the mountains at night.

Strangers of all the new equipment in Kabul are the large steel cylinders, perhaps 50ft long, mounted on the back of tank transporter lorries. They resemble the containers

that the Russians usually use to carry ground-to-air missiles, although close inspection—which is not easy—suggests that they are empty at present.

With the latest reinforcements, the Soviet military strength here probably stands at about 100,000 men—more than five divisions, each with a complement of more than 220 battle tanks.

An East European diplomat here yesterday said that the Soviet Union might take as many as 200,000 troops to crush guerrilla resistance in Afghanistan, and even that might prove a conservative estimate. Russian soldiers and equipment are still coming across the northern frontier.

Afghan President attacks Pakistan

Continued from page 1

Pakistanis, Americans and Chinese to intrude into our territory. These bandits are raping our women, killing our children, destroying our bridges, roads and houses and creating disorder."

The Afghan President said that seven groups of anti-revolutionary forces were operating from Pakistan. They had established 20 bases and 50 camps. Bandits have been trained and equipped by Islamabad, Peking and Washington.

Asked if he would support the proposal that the United States and the Soviet Union should now be asked to leave the region, his reply was:

"Why are you equating imperialism in America with the peaceful and progressive Soviet Union? The black record of America is clear from what it did in Chile, Vietnam and elsewhere to subjugate the people. On the other hand there is not a single example of Soviet imperialism after the October revolution."

Mr Karzai said that he was not opposed to a regional approach, or collective security. "But the principles of Panch-sheel (accord) should apply to any such arrangement so that there is no interference in each other's domestic affairs."

He did not favour General Zia's proposal for creating a peacekeeping force of Indian, Pakistani and Iranian soldiers. "Who is General Zia? When a proposal like this comes from him, we think that there must be some ulterior motive. One should consider what is at the back of this. General Zia is so considerate about Afghanistan, who does he not stop meddling in our affairs and sending bandits into our territory?"

Mr Karzai proposed a joint approach on the part of Russia, India and Afghanistan. "We have similar outlooks and our politics are progressive. We have no imperialistic designs against anyone, unlike America and Britain."

Asked when he had come to Afghanistan, where he was his country's envoy, Mr Karzai said that he reached Kabul three months before the January change. "I was working underground in Kabul and I, along with my comrades, made the recent revolution possible." (This is generally contested because Mr Karzai is said to have reached Kabul on the morning of December 28.)

Lake Placid, Feb 8.—The first official contact between the International Olympic Committee and a top United States government official since President Carter's call for a Moscow games boycott takes place here tomorrow when Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, meets Lord Killanin, the President of the IOC.

The meeting will be "strictly private", it was said. Mr Vance is also to make the official welcoming speech at the opening of the IOC's eighty-second session tomorrow evening.

He is expected to explain the American position and urge the 75 members attending the session to take action. Mr Carter has given the Russians until February 20 to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan or he will implement the boycott. IOC sources, however, were

Gloomy view of Rhodesia coercion

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Feb 8

A picture of intensive political intimidation, especially in Rhodesia's three eastern provinces, has been presented to Lord Soames, the Governor, by the British election supervisors operating in the country's eight provinces. The supervisors have

apportioned most of the blame to Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) Party and its military wing, Zanla.

Lord Soames was given this report on the situation at a meeting with the election supervisors in Salisbury today. The overall picture he has been presented with is a gloomy one, and must make him consider whether to use his new powers to combat intimidation. These allow him to prohibit political meetings, ban candidates from

campaigning or even suspend parties in areas where violence and coercion are taking place.

The three worst affected provinces are according to the supervisors, Mashonaland East, Manicaland and Victoria. In Mashonaland East the Mudzie, Mtoko and Mwera areas are reported to be "completely in the grip of Zanla".

It is virtually impossible for parties other than Zanu (PF) to hold meetings there. Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) had to call off four out of five meetings because of intimidation. In Manicaland it was estimated that half of the province had been subjected to extensive intimidation, mainly by Zanu (PF) and Zanla. However, the situation in Umtali was satisfactory, as in most other urban areas around the country.

Extensive intimidation by Zanu (PF) was also reported in Victoria where Zanu (Stihole) and Patriotic Front candidates have been abducted. There was also some evidence of UANC coercion.

At a meeting of the Election Commission today the leaders of the nine black parties contesting the election agreed to sign a declaration to campaign peacefully and without intimidation.

Britain accused Black African foreign ministers meeting in Addis Ababa today accused Lord Soames of trying to return Bishop Abel Muzorewa to power. An Organisation of African Unity (OAU) spokesman told reporters there was unanimous condemnation of Britain during a closed debate on Rhodesia by the OAU Council of Ministers.

Pretoria counts the cost of clearing homelands

From Ray Kennedy

Cape Town, Feb 8

An indication of the enormous problems created by the South African Government's policy of Balkanizing the country into black homelands—now known as national states—has been disclosed in Parliament in Cape Town.

Dr Piet Koorhof, Minister of Cooperation and Development (Black Affairs), said today that it was estimated that about 5,250,000 additional jobs for blacks would have to be created in the next 20 years.

Tabling a report of the Corporation for Economic Development, he said it was unlikely that South Africa could mobilise sufficient capital domestically to create these jobs and extra foreign capital and investment were needed.

He said 283 factories had been established in the self-governing and independent homelands in cooperation with private enterprise. Last year 27 factories providing 4,095 jobs were set up. But 230,000 black workers were climbing on to the market each year.

Sixteen new agricultural projects had so been established last year in the homelands, which have few energy-saving rail links. Dr Koorhof said that the effect of petrol price rises on public transport could not be passed on to passengers without causing serious social problems.

He added that people tended to think that the economic development of the homelands concerned only the homelands themselves and their citizens or was the sole responsibility of the government. But the South African public also had a role to play and it was essential that the private sector became increasingly involved.

Earlier this week a Bill on consolidation of the homelands was published in Cape Town, making provision for areas of 19 districts in South Africa to become part of the Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Venda independent homelands.

The immediate effect of the Bill has been for Transkei, once the showpiece of the homeland idea, to ask if it could restore diplomatic relations with South Africa, which it severed in April, 1978.

The fact that it is running at a deficit this year of £20m, and had to renegotiate a £33m annual grant agreement with South Africa, might also have prompted the decision.

Bophuthatswana is fragmented into six pieces of land and Venda into two.

Consolidation and the concept of Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, of a constellation of states go hand in hand. Mr Botha has said that no state can exist peacefully if its neighbours are impoverished and view it with envy.

Mr Henrie Van der Walt, MP, chairman of the committee investigating the consolidation, says: "We are not investigating mere boundaries but the overall economic potential within the boundaries as well."

The money to buy up the land needed has not yet been allocated but Mr van der Walt has estimated it could amount to more than £1,600m.

Hangings total 113: Last year 133 people were hanged in South Africa, the greatest number since 1910, it was announced here yesterday.

All were men—98 black, 33 Coloured and two white, according to figures released in Parliament by Mr Louis le Grange, the Minister for Prison.

Senators may seek action on Treasury chief

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Feb 8

Several United States Senators, mostly Republicans, are considering the appointment of a special Government prosecutor to investigate whether there is a basis for bringing criminal charges against Mr William French Miller, Secretary of the Treasury.

Today, the Secretary was questioned by members of the Senate banking committee. They sought to determine Mr Miller's involvement with bribery and other improper business practices by Textron Inc, the company he was in charge of before joining the Government two years ago.

They also sought to determine whether Mr Miller had been truthful about Textron's bribes at the time he was confirmed for public office in 1978 by the committee.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has alleged that Textron spent \$5.4m (£25) in foreign bribes while Mr Miller was with the company, that he agreed to the destruction of documents concerning \$490,000 of expenses for Department of Defence officials, and that Mr Miller made misleading public statements about Textron's dealings.

At one point during today's hearing, Mr Miller said he hoped this whole affair would end swiftly and that the committee would no longer "continue to persecute me".

Israeli forces go on alert as tension rises in Beirut

By David Watts

Israel yesterday put its forces on alert, there was shelling in south Lebanon, and tension rose in Beirut, as Lebanese relations with its neighbours appeared to be approaching another turning point.

President Hafez Al-Assad of Syria announced at the weekend that he intended to withdraw the 20,000 Syrian troops from Lebanon. They have been instrumental in maintaining a balance that has prevented serious outbreaks of factional strife in recent months.

Though President Assad has since postponed the date for the withdrawal of the troops and has announced no new decision, the reaction of the Israelis and the increase in tension in Lebanon is indicative of the gravity of the situation. There is speculation that the redeployment might take place tomorrow.

There are fears that a withdrawal of the Syrians or a regrouping in the Bekaa valley in east Lebanon could lead again to a serious outbreak of fighting in Beirut. That might, in turn, provoke the Israelis to provide overt assistance for the minority Christians.

The Syrian President wants to see his forces replaced by the reconstituted Lebanese Army, which has been restructured since the civil war to overcome the accusation that it was Christian dominated. Whether the army is yet ready to take

Eerie silence as raids continue in Hebron

From Christopher Walker

Hebron, Feb 8

Still under curfew eight days after the murder of a young Jewish settler, the normally bustling centre of this occupied West Bank town was eerily silent this morning as Israeli Army squads continued their raids on Arab houses.

With a small party of foreign correspondents, I was unexpectedly permitted to enter the prohibited area after an argument between our driver—a member of the extreme right-wing Gush Enuniim group—and Israeli soldiers who, after a radio call to base, reluctantly agreed to roll back the barbed wire barriers.

Within a few hundred yards, we came across an Israeli patrol which had just been stoned by Palestinian Arabs concealed on one of the many rooftops overlooking the narrow, twisting streets and alleys.

The hostility from the Arab residents was apparent both from the faces peering through narrow windows and the angry gestures made later when we drove up to Kiryat Arba, the Jewish settlement on the outskirts. It was there that the murdered student, Mr Joshua Sloma, attended a religious college. Since his death, extra troops have been moved in to prevent further attacks against Hebron's 50,000 Arab population.

The ostensible purpose of our visit was to inspect the 56 Jewish-owned buildings in the centre abandoned in 1929, the year when the 200 Jewish families then living in Hebron fled after massacres in which 67 Jews were slaughtered. Some are still deserted and others occupied by Arabs.

Gush Enuniim, the group in the vanguard of settlement activity in the West Bank, has demanded that families from Kiryat Arba should be allowed to move into the abandoned buildings, all of which are in streets now occupied exclusively by Arabs.

A number of politicians described the move as a "suitable Zionist response" to the killing. It is understood that the issue will be raised when the Cabinet meets on Sunday.

Mayor's campaign: Mr Fehd Kawasma, the Arab mayor of Hebron, announced today that he will ask the Israeli High Court to order the return to Arab ownership of the land near the city, on part of which Kiryat Arba is built.

He said he would base his appeal on the successful case of other Arab landowners, who had the settlement of Elon Moreh, near Nablus, evacuated and their land returned after a court ruling in their favour. Reuter.

FBI investigating 80 bribery cases

From Michael Leapman

New York, Feb 8

Mr William Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, says that the bureau has 80 undercover operations under way similar to the much-publicized "Abscam" case involving allegations or bribes to congressmen.

In an interview today in the *New York Daily News*, Mr Webster said that many of the investigations were due to bear fruit in the next two months.

Since Mr Webster took over at the FBI two years ago, he has switched the focus of its operations. Its main targets now are corrupt officials and financial swindlers, rather than the smaller, though more violent, crimes with which it used to be associated.

More than 50 of the 80 current inquiries are "long-term, sophisticated investigations", Mr Webster said. Some 1,200 public officials are having their conduct examined.

The Abscam case began two years ago when an informer told the FBI where they could find some valuable paintings stolen from a New York hotel.

An agent posed as an Arab shahk, wanting to buy the paintings and arrests were made. The informer then offered to talk about corrupt officials and the FBI decided to stick to the Arab disguise.

The most original defence against charges of involvement in the bribery case has come from Mr Richard Kelly, a Republican Congressman from Florida. He called a press conference in Washington yesterday to explain that he had accepted \$25,000 (£10,800) from undercover agents to further his own investigation of corrupt practices.

His motive, he said, was "to find out what these cats were up to." He has returned most of the money to the FBI.

The fallout of the Abscam scandal is being felt in many areas. In New Jersey, the allegation that at least one member of the Casino Control Commission accepted bribes has harmed the state's gambling industry, which has been in existence for only two years. With the enormous sums of money to be made from

gambling, the state authorities went to some lengths, when introducing the legislation allowing casinos in Atlantic City, to ensure that they would be untainted by corrupt practices. The safeguards were clearly inadequate.

The affair has also led to increased sensitivity about corruption in other areas. It has created an atmosphere which encouraged an allegation this week that Mr George Bush, a Republican presidential contender, accepted dubious payments from a "slush fund" operated by President Nixon, when Mr Bush was running for Congress in 1970.

Mr Bush, campaigning in New Hampshire for the primary there this month, insists that he is "clean, clean, clean" and that the payments violated no law in force at that time.

That appears to be the truth, but any allegation involving the discredited President Nixon and secret payments is likely to harm Mr Bush's prospects in the present atmosphere.

Labour joins protest over Cassidy affair

Saturday Review

The path to the Nile

by
Richard Hall

Florence had long grown used to the noisome realities of camp life, the heat, stink and vermin, animals being slaughtered, skinned, eviscerated and cut up, malcontents being beaten. She found little scope for privacy.

When they were on the march, she dressed in loosely-cut breeches and knee-high gaiters. Unlike Sam, who left his massive arms bare almost to the shoulders, she wore a long-sleeved blouse, belted at the waist. Both of them were heavily tanned, which only made more striking their blue eyes and fair hair, a constant source of wonderment to African tribesmen. The villagers were acquainted with the Arabs—who because they were merely brown were called "white men". To prove that the colour of his face was deceptive, that he was a "very white man", Sam would take off his shirt; it was a sporting gesture that evoked yells of amusement.

Quite often, Florence in her breeches and gaiters was assumed to be the young son of Sam. Once they were surrounded by a crowd of several hundred Africans who imagined they were "Turks" looking for ivory or slaves. A hunchback who knew some Arabic acted as interpreter and began scolding quizzically at Florence. Sam explained that she was his wife. "Your wife! What a lie! He is a boy!" The more Sam insisted, the louder the hunchback responded. "Katab!—" "What a lie!"

Usually, when a chief came to see them, Florence would unpack a dress and change into it, and Sam would wear a light silk jacket. In add ceremony to the occasion, a Persian carpet was laid out on the floor of the tent.

One day, Sam decided to try a different effect. He brought out his Highland costume—an Arthol kiln, sporran, socks and bonnet. When he had put it on, he stuck several ostrich feathers in the bonnet for good measure. Sam noted with satisfaction that the visiting chief, "naked as he was born", looked completely dumbfounded.

Among the Obbo tribe, good relations were established with an old chief called Katchiba. He was a splendid musician and played upon an eight-stringed guitar for the newcomers during his first visit to them. They thought it the sweetest melody they had heard anywhere in Africa. Katchiba was a great hunter as well, and despite his years would dance and perform a variety of antics at the least provocation. He was also renowned as a rainmaker and because the rains seemed to be stopping early, and the land crying up, was at that moment being pressed by his people to bring on a deluge.

Rather anxiously, Katchiba discussed the demand with Sam through an interpreter and at last decided to blow four blasts on his rainmaking whistle. In search of supplementary magic, he asked pleadingly whether the white man used whistles.

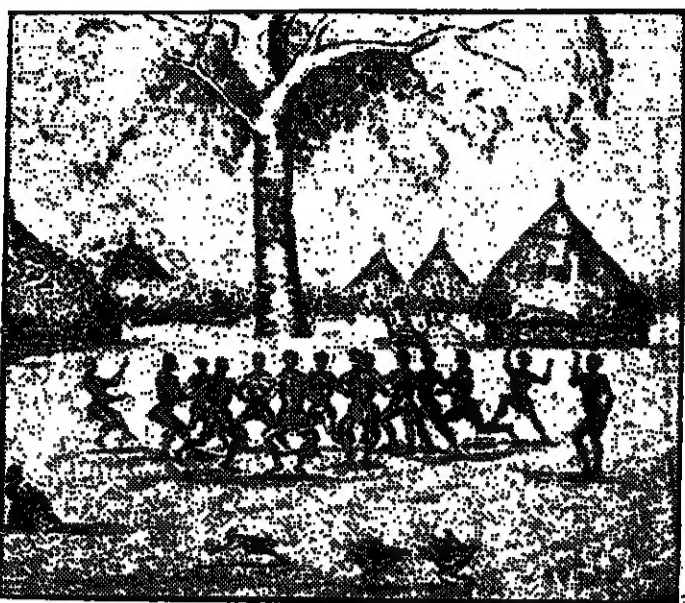
This gave Sam a chance to show off one of his talents: he put his fingers in his mouth and produced the ear-splitting sound that he used, when hunting in Scotland, to call his hounds. Luckily for both of them, there was a thunderstorm four days later.

Among the gifts which delighted Katchiba was the best of the expedition's rescues, a tin plate and a pair of green goggles. He was also entranced by a card covered in shirt buttons, to which Florence attached a string so that he might wear it around his neck. But there was one object in the tent that Katchiba coveted most of all—the chamber-pot, which had survived so many vicissitudes. He explained that it would be a splendid receptacle for serving meals on, and he begged Sam to give it to him.

An activity in which Sam was always willing to engage, to entertain all comers, was sketching. He was good at making instant likenesses, and enjoyed letting his fancy run free. One day he drew a girl with three breasts—"A regular screamer, as the Yankees would say."

The Bakers spent months with Katchiba, and once when elephants were ravaging the gardens around the village, Sam volunteered to try and shoot some. It was impossible to follow the elephants into their hiding places by day, because the grass was too high, so he decided to dig a grave-like trench in the gardens and wait there with his most massive gun, the "Baby".

In the middle of the night, he could hear from the trench the huge herd rampaging in the gardens, but everything was too indistinct for a shot. He held his fire, until one elephant came lumbering to within 32 paces of the hole. Baker picked up his



gun, then whistled so that the animal would turn and give him a chance to shoot at the shoulder. He fired. The gun flashed and roared in the night and he heard the elephant fall. But was it dead? Sam sensed that his position was too dangerous to make a move, so he left he must wait until dawn.

As the light began to grow and the first birds sang, he saw Florence coming down the path from the village, leading men armed with axes and knives. She had heard the gun and was bringing a party to cut up the anticipated carcass. But the elephant was not yet quite dead—it had got to its feet and was standing among the tall grass. As its human adversaries moved closer there was a thud: it had crumpled heavily to the ground and died. Before slowing it to be cut up, Sam sent for his tape measure. The bull was 10 ft 6 inches from foot to shoulder, and one of the tusks was 6 ft 6 inches long.

As the rains dragged on, Sam and Florence suffered more and more from malaria. It became a struggle to do the most simple jobs around the camp—mending the tent or their clothes, boiling down fat to make soap, or "tin-killing" to make rings and bracelets that could be used as presents.

With brief interludes, the end of 1863 passed by in a haze. Sam was in worse condition than Florence, on December 21 he wrote "I have fever again" and against each of the four next days there is just a single-word entry: "Fever." But with the New Year came drier weather and the chance to move south. Sam took one of the few remaining doses of quinine in the medicine chest, so that he would be strong enough to mount a riding ox.

Soon the expedition was at a latitude well beyond any point reached before by Europeans coming from the north. The only people who had preceded them were a few bands of Arab marauders, making tentative probes towards a group of powerful African kingdoms, about which they knew no more than the rumours picked up from local tribesmen.

But finally Baker was able to write with pride in his diary on January 22: "Marched 65 40m, reaching the Somerset river, or Victoria White Nile. I never made so tedious a journey, owing to the delays of grass, streams and deep swamps, but since we gained the forest these obstacles were not so numerous. Many tracks of elephants, rhinoceros and buffaloes; but we saw nothing. Halted eighty feet above the river; observation, 3,864ft."

Beyond the opposite bank now shrouded in mist, lay the capital of King Kamrasi. On his marches distant, on only their fortunes rested, for some how he must be bribed and flattered into letting them make the journey to the south-west, towards where the Luta N'zige lake was said to lie.

They crossed the river in dugout canoes and prepared to meet Kamrasi. He would surely unravel the final mystery: how far was it to the lake?

King Kamrasi proved to be a large man, whose protuberant eyes gave him a peculiar cast of features. The king also had, in Baker's view, quite peculiar ideas. Yes, the white man could go to look for the lake, but the white woman must stay behind. Kamrasi wanted her head, then hand and feet, to be used as a trophy. He was ready, however, to hand over several wives of his own in exchange.

This proposition was to come at the end of several weeks in Kamrasi's clutches. From their dwindling reservoir of supplies, gifts were yielded up to him one by one: a Persian carpet, 15ft square, a double-barrelled rifle, shoes, a Kashmir shawl, several pairs of socks, the yellow muslin handkerchief Florence wore on her head, then handful after handful of necklaces and bracelets.

For his part, Kamrasi was a grudging host, keeping his visitors in muddy huts in a mosquito-ridden swamp outside his capital. Suspicious about their assurances that nothing for him was left, he made them unpack their portmanteaux—where what Sam bitterly called "the family linen"



was revealed as no more than a few ragged towels.

So now Kamrasi wanted Florence. At this, Sam took out a revolver, strode over to the startled king and put the gun 3ft from his chest. Weak with fever, yet wild with rage, he told Kamrasi that he would shoot him there and then if the demand was repeated. Florence also jumped up and belaboured the king in Arabic (which he did not understand), with an expression Sam thought was about as amiable as Medusa's head. Finally, their woman interpreter, who knew Kamrasi's language but came from a hostile tribe, added her voice to the altercation.

Realizing that he was stepping beyond the mark, Kamrasi switched to more mundane requests. He fancied the kiln which Sam had worn to impress him, and his compass. He found that Baker would give him nothing else—relations between them were now distinctly icy.

"I trust I have seen the last of Kamrasi," wrote Baker angrily. "A graver brute cannot survive in the capital the Bakers had asked the king what was left in a medicine chest left behind by the explorer John Speke. Nothing, was the reply—everything was swallowed. It seemed almost like a death-knell, for the last hope of obtaining any quinine for the final stage of the journey was now gone.

Baker wrote: "After all my toil I am done. With quinine I could risk anything, another year in this hell." But without it, death was a "simple certainty". As an afterthought he scrawled: "My own men would burn journals and seal my guns." He trembled for Florence, but she scorned any thought of turning back.

Kamrasi was aware of the risks they would take by setting off for the Luta N'zige. "Go if you wish, but don't blame me if you can't get back," he told them. "It is twenty days, you may believe it as you like. So now they know how long it would take to make the trip, if they could survive it."

The expedition set out again, marching doggedly on: Sam, Florence, followed by two negro servants, Saar and Richman, next two slave women, the interpreter, and then twelve Arab guards. The Arabs were by now totally sceptical about the lake and were almost resigned to being led to their deaths.

One day in early March the travellers came to a swamp, its surface covered with a matted layer of water-grass and plants. This covering, about two feet thick, acted as a bridge, as long as you did not pause too long in any one spot. The porters ran swiftly across, sinking up to their ankles, and Sam began the journey, urging Florence to keep close behind him. The natural bridge was only eighty paces wide.

Sam was a quarter of the way over when he turned to see how Florence was coping. She had stopped, her face contorted and purple. Her legs were gradually sinking through the reeds. At the instant he saw her she began to double up and fall, "as though shot dead."

Sam strode back over the weeds, took hold of her seemingly lifeless body, then shouted for help. With several of his men he dragged her across the surface, keeping her head just over the water: if they had tried to carry her, despite the lightness of her weight, all would have sunk through the weeds and become trapped. When they were on solid ground, Sam picked her up and walked to the shade of a tree.

It seemed as though she might simply have fainted, and Sam bathed her forehead with water. But it was something more—her hands were tightly clenched, and so were her teeth, but her eyes were wide and staring. She was in the throes of a seizure, caused by the sun and exhaustion.

Most of the porters were now further ahead on the path, so Sam ordered Saar to run forward and find an angreep (a portable wooden bedstead) on which she might be carried to the next village. Saar was also told to bring back a bag with clothes, because Florence had become soaked from head to foot while being dragged through the water. While he waited, Sam put his hand inside her shirt and massaged her heart; the slave women rubbed her feet. But nothing would make her respond. She lay like a corpse.

When Saar returned, Sam put new clothes on her and she was lifted on to the angreep. Then the procession moved forwards with funeral slowness. As they walked, he put his hand under her head and held it high, for the sounds in her throat showed that she might choke. There was nothing more to be done until they reached a village, and there Florence was set down in a dark hut. Sam forced open her jaws and pushed a small piece of wood between her teeth. He saw that her tongue was completely dry, so he put a rag into her mouth and dripped water on to it to moisten her mouth. As the night wore on she never moved.

By morning, Florence was unchanged. Sam counted her breathing, faint but regular, about five times a minute. In his diary he wrote: "F seems to have congestion of the brain."

There was no food in the village, so he knew it was impossible to stay there. Florence was placed once again on the angreep and the procession wound on to the next village. Sam walked by her side, up



Top left: a detail from one of Baker's watercolours, showing Baker and Florence being entertained by a tribal dance. Bottom left: the earliest surviving photograph of Florence, aged 24. Left: Baker and Florence, 1867.

the hills, through small streams, amid fields of ripening sugar cane, across wild parkland and among the papyrus of the marshes. The high papyrus seemed to wave above the expedition like the plumes over a hearse.

They reached a small village where there was little to eat, so Sam went out and shot some guinea-fowl, before returning to his vigil. Florence still did not move, as she lay in the light of candles made from balls of fat and pieces of rag. It was now more than five years that he and Florence had been together, but at the moment when their love was about to culminate in triumph, it seemed as though her death would snatch everything away. He wrote bitterly: "Is so terrible a sacrifice to be the result of my selfish exile?"

One more the dawn broke and the march was renewed. Sam walked mechanically with the litter, watching for any change in Florence's condition. He had not slept, but was past feeling fatigue. The country-side was unchanging and the lake—which now seemed so unimportant—was by all accounts some long distance away. As the night came on, Sam prepared himself again, dropping water into his mouth. But Florence lay still in the hut as the flickering light outside there was no sound except the crying of night-birds.

Suddenly he heard the sound of hyenas, the scavengers of Africa. If Florence were to be buried here, her grave would not be untroubled. These thoughts drifted through his fevered mind as he placed wet cloths on Florence's forehead. As the dawn broke red he went to the entrance of the hut to breathe in the morning air. While he stood there he suddenly heard a voice behind him. She murmured softly: "Mein Gott."

Sam rushed over to look at her. She was conscious, but delirious. Florence was to remain in that state for several days, often having violent convulsions. But the expedition could not halt, because it was on the extreme borders of Buganda and King Mutesa's soldiers had plundered the vil-

lages, most of which stood deserted. There was no food. As they travelled through the forests, searches were made for honey. Sam walked on steadily and feverish, while Florence groaned and cried on the angreep. One evening, when they came to a village, it seemed certain that she would die in her delirium. Sam told his men to put a new handle on the papyrus and to look for a place to dig the grave. Then he fell down on to a mat and went to sleep, at the last point of exhaustion. There was nothing to be done.

In later years, Florence would relate how she returned to consciousness to hear the sound of hooves and muzzles, as the men worked on her grave. But when Sam awoke, to see the sunlight coming through the door of the hut, he jumped up in alarm, feeling sure that she must have died while he slept, and he had not been with her. A first glance seemed to confirm his fears, because she lay with a look of serenity on her features; they seemed like marble. But then he saw her breast rising and falling steadily—the agonized movements of her recent days were gone. At that moment her eyes opened briefly and she stared up at Sam with a clear calmness he never thought to see again.

For two days the expedition halted. There was almost nothing to be bought except eggs, and from these Sam made a soup that Florence was able to swallow. She was still perilously weak, and entirely unaware of how long she had been unconscious since collapsing in the swamp; but her mind was fully restored.

Although later Sam was to recount fully the story of Florence's escape from death, his diary entries at the time were terse and factual. For March 4, 1864, the day when the crisis passed, he only wrote: "Marched, five hours forty minutes due West. Country much wooded, thick and thorny. F. woke up from her delirium."

When Florence was well enough to be carried, the cavalcade moved on again. It was travelling along the top of a ridge, beside a swamp nearly

sixteen miles wide. Far away to the west were the outlines of high mountains and it seemed that these would have to be crossed before the Luta N'zige lake was reached. This was a daunting thought, for the expedition was journeying at a height of almost 4,000 feet, and the mountains seemed decidedly more than that. Perhaps the stories that the lake was six months' journey away were true after all: Kamrasi had said twenty days, but nothing from him could be relied upon. It was impossible to gain precise information from local guides, who made a fetish of secrecy.

One day they reached a village which the exhausted Sam understood to be called Parkaoi. The local people now insisted that the lake was near at hand, although Baker could barely hide his mistrust, for the tall mountains still lay ahead. Then his guide revealed that the mountains were on the far side of the lake: if they started early in the morning, they could wash in the lake before midday. (In fact Parkaoi was not the name of the village—it was a word meaning "very close").

That night, Baker could scarcely sleep for excitement, and he aroused the whole expedition before dawn. The guide was promised two precious handfuls of beads if they were truly going to stand beside the lake that day; he responded by taking the lead at a swiftness pace. Florence was still being borne on an angreep and Baker, fighting back his fever, was astride the last riding ox. Their followers struggled along in the rear.

After the sun had risen they climbed a hill—and a quarter of a mile below them was the lake. "The glory of our prize was suddenly upon me! There, like a sea of quicksilver, lay far beneath the grand expanse of water." It seemed that it stretched endlessly away to the south and west and was at least 50 miles wide. The mountains rose high from the opposite shore and through his telescope Baker could see waterfalls cascading down them. He had planned that if ever they

should reach the Luta N'zige he should lead his men in three hearty cheers "in the tradition of Old England". But when it came to it, he could not.

Sam and Florence just stood and stared. Their followers, clustered around them, poured out excited comments. Two of the Arabs who had been in Alexandria and seen the Mediterranean—now more than three thousand miles away—said the lake was just like the sea.

The path to the water was steep and twisting. It could only be tackled on foot, so Florence took a large stick in one hand and rested the other on Sam's shoulder. Every twenty paces she was forced to halt and recover her strength, until after two hours they were beneath the rocky granite face and came to a wide sandy plain. It was still more than a mile through trees and shrubs, over rough grass, to the lake's edge.

Florence followed Sam, who in the exultation of the moment was striding on to where the wavelets broke on the shore. She had prepared in her own way for this moment: that morning she had put a ribbon in her hair, a ribbon with the red, white and green colours of Hungary. Now she took it off and tied it to the branch of a bush near the water's edge. The symbol of the country to which she would never return fluttered in the breeze of the lake.

Sam was now far ahead, silhouetted in the lakeside, its expanse sparkling in the morning sun. He later recalled: "I rushed into the lake, and thirsty with heat and fatigue, with a heart full of gratitude, I drank deeply from the Sources of the Nile." He knew that at last, at the age of forty-two, he was something more than just a sporting gentleman and after-dinner reconnoiter. His name as an African explorer would now stand alongside those of Livingstone, Speke, Grant and Burton.

Richard Hall has adapted this article from his book *Lovers on the Nile*, which will be published by Collins on February 25th at £7.95.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

TOMORROW AT 7.30
Philharmonia Orchestra
RICCARDO MUTI

Brabms: Tragic Overture
Brabms: Violin Concerto
SALVATORE ACCARDO
Brabms: Symphony No. 4

ES. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday, 13 February at 8 p.m.

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Bosoni

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MICHAEL GIELEN

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Cast includes: ELIZABETH CONNELL, THOMAS HERNDON,
PHILIP LANGRIDGE, BARRY MORA, GUNTER REICH,
DAVID WILSON-JOHNSON, BBC SINGERS

(Phone note change of cast)

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In the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor: MEREDITH DAVIES

BACH: St. John Passion

Inc. Masing: David Wilson-Johnson, Mosa Watt, Richard Morris,
Anthony Rolf Johnson, Malcolm King
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MICHAEL GIELEN

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

MAHLER: Symphony No. 4
MOZART: Serenade in C minor (K.360)
GIELEN: Penultimate (UK premiere)
(Please note change of programme & artist)

KARIN OTT SARAH WALKER

PHILIP LANGRIDGE STEPHEN ROBERTS

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BORIS MONOSZON: violin

Suite from "The Cunning Little Vixen" JANACEK
Violin Concerto in D SIBELIUS
Symphony No. 9 (from "The New World") DVORAK

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SUNDAY, 24 FEBRUARY at 3.15 p.m.

Frank PAVANE

Mendelssohn VIOLIN CONCERTO in E minor

GYORGY PAUK violin

Fauré REQUIEM

Marie McLaughlin, soprano
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RICHARD HICKOX conductor

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COLMAN PEARCE BERNADETTE GREVV

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Lieder from Schubert's Gesänge
Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64
TCHAIKOVSKY

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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

De Koon presents

TOMORROW, at 7.15 p.m.

CHRISTIANE EDINGER

GERHARD FUCHTEL piano

SCHUBERT: Sonata in A, Op. 162
BACH: Solo Sonata in C, BWV 1005
WEBER: Four Pieces, Op. 7
PROKOFIEV: Sonata No. 3 in D, Op. 94

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MONDAY NEXT 11 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

Schütz Choir of London

Sing Monteverdi's Madrigals of Love and War

London Baroque Players

Roger Norrington director

For details see South Bank panel

TUESDAY NEXT, 12 FEBRUARY, at 7.45 p.m.

MAURICE HASSON, violin

IAN BROWN, piano

MOZART: Sonata No. 8 in C, K.296
BACH: Sonata No. 1 in G minor for solo violin, BWV 1001
BEETHOVEN: Sonata No. 2, Op. 10 No. 3
FAURÉ: Sonata No. 3, Op. 13

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WEDNESDAY NEXT, 13 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

MOZART

The Complete Works for Solo Flute and Orchestra
Concerts in G, K.213; Concerts in D, K.214; Andante in C, K.215
and Violin Flute Concerto in D, K.216

JOHN SOLUM

Transverse Flute

The Hanoverian Orchestra

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Conductor: Simon Standage
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Return visit of the popular Dutch pianist

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BRABMS RECITAL

Eight Piano Pieces, Op. 76
Two Piano Pieces, Op. 77
Three Intermezzi, Op. 117
Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel, Op. 24

ES. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

DAVID ATHERTON conductor

ROBERT TEAR tenor

MATHIAS: Divertimento for String Orchestra
BRITTEN: Nocturne, Op. 60
BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 1 in C

ES. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

WEDNESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

LONDON CHANTICLEER ORCHESTRA

Conductor: RUTH GIPPS

DAVID POWELL oboe
Concerts for Orchestra (first performance)
Oboe Concerto
Oboe Concerto
Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme
ES. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

RONALD SMITH

plays

CHOPIN

Potopow-Fantasia in A flat, Op. 81; Four Mazurkas, Op. 30;
Twelve Etudes, Op. 25; Four Scherzos, Op. 39; Op. 58
ES. £3.70, £4.40, £5.20 (ALL OTHERS SOLD) Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: Helen Anderson

PURCELL ROOM

Netherlands Embassy Concert, Wednesday next 13 Feb. at 7.30

RANDOM ENSEMBLE

Core Belles violin, Anner Billings cello
Rolf Dyer for violin & cello, Op. 71; Minuet in G for solo
cello, Op. 71; Minuet in G for solo cello, Op. 71;
A 2 for violin and piano

MESSIAEN: QUARTET FOR THE END OF TIME

Tickets: £3.00, £1.50, £1.00 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: Helen Anderson

GLC South Bank Concert Halls

General Manager: Michael Kaye

Ticket reservations only: 928 3191 Mondays to Saturdays

from 10am to 6pm. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays.

Information: 928 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have

already been made: 928 2972. S.A.E. with postal applications.

Management: Helen Anderson

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

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Wigmore Hall

Manager: William Lym (Mailing list £1 a year)

Tickets from Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St. W1

Collecting

Rhodesian art: a wide open field

With sanctions against Rhodesia lifted, Rhodesian art can once again be exported legally to the West. No doubt, in the course of the next year, artistically minded entrepreneurs will be exhibiting and selling Rhodesian art in Britain. What should we make of it?

By far the most significant early individual Rhodesian art works are the stone carvings originally made in greenish soapstone, but now increasingly in serpentine and quartz. The carvings began in villages and townships only about 10 years before UDI, but even during that short period they had begun to stir excitement abroad. There had been two exhibitions at the Commonwealth Institute in London; pieces had also been sold in America where a big exhibition was planned—a carving by Joram Mariga had been bought for the Museum of Modern Art.

UDI put a total blockage, at least on the overt trade in Rhodesian sculpture, though a few pieces continued to trickle out, notably among the effects of departing white settlers. For the past 10 years the sculptors have been able to work only for the small internal market. It will be interesting to see what happens next.

For the collector, the special fascination of the field lies in exerting his or her own taste and judgment. Which type of work and which artists deserve a slot in art history has yet to be decided. Collections now formed with care and taste will help to decide it.

The story begins with the opening of the National Gallery in Salisbury in 1957. The first director was Frank McEwen, an English artist and administrator, who was to become the chief international promoter of the sculpture school. From the start he saw his role as stimulating artistic activity within Rhodesia, not merely exhibiting the work of other cultures to a Rhodesian audience.

and caught the carving bug. He was taught to sculpt by his own employees and himself achieved some busts of Ian Smith. His farm was rapidly transformed into a flourishing carving community. Everyone was carving and their sculptures became part of the landscape.

When UDI came in 1970 Frank McEwen was busy organizing the exhibition to put all previous exhibitions in the shade at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Three schools of sculpture would be represented, the Salisbury workshop artists, those from Tom Blomefield's farm, and the Inyanga group. Large quantities of sculpture had already reached New York when the UDI announcement buzzed across the wires in March, 1970. And that was the end of the exhibition.

Quite a few of the sculptures were sold in New York and McEwen later organized exhibitions at the Musée Rodin in Paris and at the ICA in London. On each occasion more pieces were sold. One group was bought by the Anthropos Gallery in Monmouth Street, Covent Garden. They are, as far as I can discover, the only gallery in London offering Rhodesian sculpture for sale at the moment.

They have roughly two dozen pieces on offer; their prices in the main range from £200 to £2,000, though there is the odd small piece at under £100 (very much above Rhodesian prices). R. W. McEwen himself severed his connection with Salisbury soon after UDI. Pat Pearce was arrested for helping Zanu and left the country. But curiously enough, the soapstone carvers seem to have multiplied through the war years. This was perhaps one of the few sources of cash income available.

Whereas in 1970, sculptures were marketed by the National Gallery itself and there were a couple of craft shops in Salisbury, there are now some two dozen craft shops. In addition to selling weaving, wooden furniture and various village crafts, these shops all sell soapstone carving. This is frowned on by the serious collectors of Rhodesian art.

It is suggested that those with no particular gift for carving are simply working soapstone as a commercial deal. The serious carvers, I

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was told by Irene Staunton of the Drum Arts Centre, Covent Garden, who has just been out to Rhodesia, are now working in serpentine and quartz. These are harder substances, much more difficult to work than soapstone which is so soft that the most amateur hand can shape it in some fashion.

All the craft shops, she says, are now offering soapstone carvings for sale. Moreover, there are the peddlers on the street. "You buy chess set?" "You buy head?" they come dashing up to demand; they are now a feature when walking through Salisbury.

The National Gallery in Salisbury is no longer taking an active interest in marketing contemporary sculpture, though pieces can still be found there. The Delta Gallery and the Genesis Gallery in the centre of Salisbury are seriously interested in sculpture and marketing items of real quality. Prices in Salisbury are currently said to range from around £20 to £800, depending on reputation.

Most of the reputations were made in the pre-UDI period. The artists who were shown internationally in those days included John and Bernard Takawira, Joram Mariga, Tubayi Dube, Bernard Manyangwe, Boira Mteki, Joseph Ndarandika, Thomas Mu and Simba Dzokoraka.

Geraldine Norman



Fragrant woman by Thomas Mu, at the Anthropos Gallery.

In Homer's wake

The Aegean: a Sea Guide

By H. M. Denham

(John Murray, £17.50)

The Companion Guide to Mainland Greece

By Brian de Jongh

(Collins, £8.95)

Proud-voiced

Macedonia

By Joan Wynne-Thomas

(Springwood Books, £4.95)

"Yachts (or pleasure boats)" wrote John Evelyn, vessels not known among us till the Dutch East India Company presented that curious piece to the King. The curious piece remained royal. All the royals had them, many still do. Later on, you had to be a duke or a Vanderbilt or both, to own a yacht. In one of Ouida's lush interludes, the heroine, gazing down upon the Bosporus, touches her disconsolate admirer on the shoulder and says: "You need a yacht—take mine." Nowadays yachts are more popular, and hundreds of them sail across the waters of the Mediterranean. They come from many lands, some of the most beautiful from New England. No longer are they the playthings of royalty, but the toys of the rich. At Rhodes, Pausanias, Delos, Mykonos and so many other islands—Denham now lists no less than four hundred in the Aegean alone—you may behold these lovely vessels. They are the true aristocrats of the sea, obeying no time-table but their owners' sweet will.

But guidance they must have. Captain Denham has already supplied it, from the treasure-house of his experience for those who navigate the sea-green, the luminous, the dark, the deep-blue sea of the Mediterranean. Of all his guides this is the most in demand. First published in 1973, it is now in its fourth edition. It tells the yachtsman all he needs to know, down to the

nearest water-tap, on the remotest island quay, together with much that he would never find out. It is beautifully presented with excellent and skilful plans, photographs and sketches, some of which show the rig of local craft. To say that author and publisher are worthy of each other is to accord them both the high praise they merit. In its own realm, Denham's Aegean is the best book since Homer. If you are to sail in the Aegean you must take this book with you: if you cannot sail in the Aegean you should read it at home, and in a price you'll be there.

When we seek to explore mainland Greece it is with Brian de Jongh that we must rewardingly do it. This pragmatic manual is a true love of Hellas, but as Robert Ishidori points out on his warm and witty foreword, by no means an undiscriminating one. He was also an artist of distinction; so that in this endearing and illuminating work he is equipped to give us expert guidance on icons and frescoes and has even something new and important to tell us about the Parthenon sculptures. He is at home with the learned as with the unlearned, Greek or other. He is especially informative regarding the exotic looks of medieval icons and the medieval world, not only a chronology of Greek and Byzantine rulers but also of Latin Dukes, of Athens and Catalan despots. No cranny of Greek time or space is left unexplored: the aboriginal cultures, maps and plans are all good.

Alas, Brian de Jongh died in 1977, before the amazing new finds of Macedonian gold had come to light. The Aegean is satisfyingly filled by Joan Wynne-Thomas's Proud-voiced Macedonia (a title taken from Pausanias). In 95 pages we are given a precise, straightforward description of Macedonia and its history and treasures backed by personal information supplied by Professor Manolis Andronikos who unearthed the contents of the great tombs. This is an ideal handbook. It brings us right up to 1978. We must hope for more. The text is complemented by a map of the region. The frontispiece shows in colour one of the golden caskets from Vergina which already adorns a Greek postage stamp.

Stewart Perowne

Fleshly pleasures

Penguin Travel Guides 1980/81

Edited by Stephen Birnbaum. United States, £4.95; Canada, £4.95; Mexico, £3.95; South America, £4.95; the Caribbean, Bermuda and the Bahamas, £4.95

Englishmen who make a habit of writing about America know that nothing is more foolhardy than to try to compare the national characteristics of the two peoples. Few readers on either side of the Atlantic remain unoffended. Yet when a British publisher takes a series of American guide books and publishes it under his own imprint, changing nothing except the cover, the critic is obliged to dip his toe into these turbulent waters and discuss whether the needs of the British and American traveller (or in this case, I am afraid, traveller) are sufficiently alike to render the project valid.

Penguin, the publishers in the case, seem to harbour doubts, because they have radically altered the wording on the covers of the five books in the series. When the British cover on the Caribbean stresses the carnivals, the beaches and the atolls—things to be seen rather than to be done—the cover of the otherwise identical American original speaks of sexual experiences: sipping rum, diving for doubloons, eating Creole food and swimming "in the buff".

The American book is a more accurate description of the country. These are guides for the tourist who wants to see the things he enjoys and is only marginally interested in the country in which he chooses to do them. In his introduction Stephen Birnbaum, the American editor, writes that the series, "pursues a tradition of travel writing, the tradition of Baedeker and his followers," "seemingly much more concerned with demonstrating expertise in geography or history than with any real analysis of the sorts of things that actually concern a typical tourist." He takes his contempt for geography to the impractical extreme of omitting maps from the books, save for some sparse sketches in the Caribbean.

volume. This, while reinforcing his claim that the guides are "distinctive and different," seems a serious omission.

Mr Birnbaum's strength lies in the pleasures of the flesh. His selections of restaurants, hotels and bars in places with which I am familiar are perceptive, reliable and indefatigable, as are his precise directions for locating loose women in the larger cities.

There is, sad to say, no pleasure to be had from the writing, which is treacly, breathless and occasionally desperate. To describe New York, from all the available epithets, as "the most amazing city in the world" suggests a terminal collapse of the imagination. The style recalls Sunday newspaper consumer journalism, combining a knowing tone ("call Janet Bailey, the manager beforehand, to find out when she's doing a West Indian meal") with the implication that the reader is a complete half-wit ("put heavy items on the bottom towards the hinges of the suitcase").

Militant consumerism rules. We are advised of the earnest detail that if an airline fails to honour our reservation (something which has never happened to me in 17 years of frequent travel) we can demand a look at the written statement of its policy for such emergencies. We are told which official in Washington to contact to discover whether our cruise ship has violated federal standards of hygiene.

In the Caribbean volume, the accident of switching to the first page of the section on Dominica, which that of the Dominican Republic—two distinct countries—is a fault of the binder rather than the editor but does little to inspire confidence.

And with all that detail, how did Mr Birnbaum manage to omit the single most important fact about flying to Dominica: that the airport has no lights and the last plane is scheduled to leave only a half hour before sunset? If it is late it cannot land and the impending passenger must endure the tedious 90-minute drive back to Roseau, there being no airport hotel. I suppose you could try asking the airline representative for the written policy statement which covers that; she will enjoy the laugh.

Michael Leapman

Sunny side up

The Companion Guide to South Africa

By Geoffrey Jenkins

and Eve Palmer

(Collins, £7.50)

The Companion Guides have not changed much down the years. Their declared purpose remains the same—to provide a Companion in the person of Mr and Mrs Jenkins (for such they may be) the best available. Mr Jenkins knows all about trees, and is the author of *The Plains of Camdeboo*. Mr Jenkins, described as a best-selling novelist and a friend of Ian Fleming, is also a master of the breezy first-name journalism which is one of the more treasures of our colonial heritages. They have written their guide in the first person plural, and made of it a kind of travelogue, full of jolly anecdotal material and meetings with Bole, Phyllis, Jim and "old friend Laurie" (Dr R. F. Lawrence, name of the rare myriophyllum *Peripatopsis alba*, which lives only in a single cave on Table Mountain).

Factually, so far as I can tell, there is not much they have missed. From myriophyllum to Cape Cabernets, cave paintings to diamonds mines, if you simply want to know where is what, and how long it has been there, this is probably the best available guide to South Africa, a whole lot of it falls utterly, and usefully, to reflect the true feel of the country. The word

known, and are admirably introduced, as are the out-of-the-way corners of Turkey, which are less often visited. The author says: "This guide will not look upon Turkey as an outdoor museum of antiquities but will try to describe its monuments in the context of the extraordinary land in which they stand and the fascinating people who dwell there." It does just that. Palmyra is not so much a guide book as a description of a fascinating place for the general reader who may never have the good fortune to visit it. But if he does get there he will find this book invaluable. Palmyra, the "Bride of the Desert", is situated on an oasis in the Syrian desert midway between Damascus and the Euphrates. It was this destined to be a stopping place on one of the ancient trade-routes between the Tigris-Euphrates area and the Mediterranean. The Romans called it Palmyra from the number of its palm-trees, but its real name was, and is, Tadmor.

Although occupation here goes back to Neolithic times (before 3000 BC), and history starts as early as 2000 BC, what is to be seen (and this is a great deal) is principally Roman, for Palmyra was incorporated in the Empire about the time of Christ. But it wore its Romanism with a difference, due chiefly to the influence of its neighbouring Parthia. In fact, many oriental fashions got to Palmyra before they got to Rome.

The book is divided into three parts: the history of Tadmor-Palmyra, a fascinating account of its rediscovery in the late seventeenth century, and a fully illustrated description of the excavated ruins today. The photographs, mostly by the author, are admirable, and are supplemented by reproductions of old prints.

Reynold Higgins

Rich in antiquities

The Companion Guide to Turkey

By John Freely

(Collins, £8.50)

Palmyra

By Iain Browning

(Chatto & Windus, £3.95)

Here are two travel books, very different in form and in content, both excellent examples of their kind. The Companion Guide to Turkey comes from a series which has already produced a new style of guide-book. They are literate, and they succeed in avoiding the Scylla of triviality and the Charybdis of profanity. In this guide, as in the others, the traveller gets exactly what he needs, and in a handy format.

Turkey is amazingly rich in ancient monuments and in a wide variety of scenery. Here antiquity lives happily side by side with the modern world; and the visitor is always making discoveries for himself in a way no longer possible in better explored and better documented countries such as Italy and Greece.

Istanbul gets six chapters, which it richly deserves; each covers a morning's or an afternoon's trip. The only omission I noticed is Florence Nightingale's hospital (now the Selimiye Barracks) at Uskudar, the lovely British War Cemetery adjoining it. We are then taken down the western coast, with its fantastic Graeco-Roman cities, round the corner into Lycia, and along the beautiful south coast. The Anatolian Plateau, with its Hittite remains and the city of Ankara, are less well

known, and are admirably introduced, as are the out-of-the-way corners of Turkey, which are less often visited.

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Reynold Higgins

Chess

Challenger for Karpov

This is the year when the Candidates matches to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov for the world title in 1981 are to be held. Six players qualified for this series of matches from the two Interzonals last year. Hübner, Petrosian and Portisch from the Rio de Janeiro event and Polugavsky and Adorjan from the Riga event. Adorjan in fact came equal third with his compatriot Hungarian Ribli and just squeezed into the Candidates by drawing a match with Ribli 3-3 and then qualifying by reason of a superior performance in the Riga tournament.

These six joined the finalists from the previous Candidates series (in 1977), Korchnoi and Spassky to form the eight players for the quarter-finals of the Candidates. The quarter-finals for these matches were made by drawing of lots last November at the FIDE secretariat in Amsterdam and the matches, which are due to commence in a month's time, were Korchnoi v Petrosian, Spassky v Portisch, Tal v Polugavsky and Hübner v Adorjan.

The winner of the match is the player who is in the lead at the end of 10 games and there is provision for a draw after which, if the score is still level, the winner is the player who has won the most games with the Black pieces. All this is to be done at the rate of four games a week, the matches should end by April 1. In practice they hardly ever do; but a fair time is allotted as an interval between the quarter-finals and the semi-finals since the latter are due to be finished by August 1 and presumably start some time in June. A drawing of lots was also made for the semi-finals and the winner of the Korchnoi-Petrosian match plays the winner of the Spassky-Portisch match, leaving the winner of the Spassky-Portisch match to meet the winner of the Hübner-Adorjan match.

The damnable iteration of two of these matches, both Korchnoi-Petrosian and Spassky-Portisch occurred in the previous cycle of Candidates' matches in 1977, has led a number of experts to express disappointment at the sameness of the proceedings. And it is surprising that none of the really young great players have broken through to the last eight.

There is no Timman, no Miles; above all there is no Kasparov. In this last case there never was a possibility of Kasparov playing since he was too young to participate in the Soviet Zonal tournament and does not qualify for one of the Interzonals. Timman started slowly in the Interzonal at Rio but finished up with a strong burst and missed qualifying by a hair's breadth; whereas Tony Miles, though he did and played very creditably at Riga, never really looked like qualifying.

Despite all this, each match has its own peculiar interest. The contest between Hübner (31), and Adorjan (25), is due to start at Bad Lauterberg in West Germany on March 14. One imagines that Hübner, who played so well at Rio, should have a comfortable victory; but even

here there are doubts about Hübner's match-playing technique or temperament.

One would also have surmised that Korchnoi should beat Petrosian in his match which starts on March 8 at Vilnius. Wlodek Wlodek in Austria not far from Klagenfurt and the Yugoslav border. But Petrosian is the one player in the Candidates whom Korchnoi did not want to meet. Though he beat him in the 1977 match in Italy it was not without considerable difficulty and he has also lost a match in a preceding Candidates' series to Petrosian.

The match between Tal and Polugavsky starts on March 9 at Alma-Ata in the USSR and if Tal shows his Riga form where he crushingly defeated Polugavsky and was first by a large margin then the Latvian ex-world champion should win with ease.

No country has as yet offered to stage the Spassky-Portisch match, the result of which is very open. Spassky won against him in the match which I controlled at Geneva in 1977. But since then Portisch has had better tournament results than Spassky so the result of this match is anybody's guess, and I am not so foolish or so foolish, hardly as to class myself as competent as anybody in this respect.

The following game, which was played at Tilburg in the Netherlands last November, is an excellent example of Hübner's unique style of play. White: Hübner. Black: Smyslov. Q. G. D. Sky Defence.

1. P-Q4 P-Q5 2. P-Q4 N-K3 3. P-Q5 N-B3 4. P-Q4 N-K3 5. P-Q5 N-B3 6. P-Q4 N-K3 7. P-Q5 N-B3 8. P-Q4 N-K3 9. P-Q5 N-B3 10. P-Q4 N-K3 11. P-Q5 N-B3 12. P-Q4 N-K3 13. P-Q5 N-B3 14. P-Q4 N-K3 15. P-Q5 N-B3 16. P-Q4 N-K3 17. P-Q5 N-B3 18. P-Q4 N-K3 19. P-Q5 N-B3 20. P-Q4 N-K3 21. P-Q5 N-B3 22. P-Q4 N-K3 23. P-Q5 N-B3 24. P-Q4 N-K3 25. P-Q5 N-B3 26. P-Q4 N-K3 27. P-Q5 N-B3 28. P-Q4 N-K3 29. P-Q5 N-B3 30. P-Q4 N-K3 31. P-Q5 N-B3 32. P-Q4 N-K3 33. P-Q5 N-B3 34. P-Q4 N-K3 35. P-Q5 N-B3 36. P-Q4 N-K3 37. P-Q5 N-B3 38. P-Q4 N-K3 39. P-Q5 N-B3 40. P-Q4 N-K3 41. P-Q5 N-B3 42. P-Q4 N-K3 43. P-Q5 N-B3 44. P-Q4 N-K3 45. P-Q5 N-B3 46. P-Q4 N-K3 47. P-Q5 N-B3 48. P-Q4 N-K3 49. P-Q5 N-B3 50. P-Q4 N-K3 51. P-Q5 N-B3 52. P-Q4 N-K3 53. P-Q5 N-B3 54. P-Q4 N-K3 55. P-Q5 N-B3 56. P-Q4 N-K3 57. P-Q5 N-B3 58. P-Q4 N-K3 59. P-Q5 N-B3 60. P-Q4 N-K3 61. P-Q5 N-B3 62. P-Q4 N-K3 63. P-Q5 N-B3 64. P-Q4 N-K3 65. P-Q5 N-B3 66. P-Q4 N-K3 67. P-Q5 N-B3 68. P-Q4 N-K3 69. P-Q5 N-B3 70. P-Q4 N-K3 71. P-Q5 N-B3 72. P-Q4 N-K3 73. P-Q5 N-B3 74. P-Q4 N-K3 75. P-Q5 N-B3 76. P-Q4 N-K3 77. P-Q5 N-B3 78. P-Q4 N-K3 79. P-Q5 N-B3 80. P-Q4 N-K3 81. P-Q5 N-B3 82. P-Q4 N-K3 83. P-Q5 N-B3 84. P-Q4 N-K3 85. P-Q5 N-B3 86. P-Q4 N-K3 87. P-Q5 N-B3 88. P-Q4 N-K3 89. P-Q5 N-B3 90. P-Q4 N-K3 91. P-Q5 N-B3 92. P-Q4 N-K3 93. P-Q5 N-B3 94. P-Q4 N-K3 95. P-Q5 N-B3 96. P-Q4 N-K3 97. P-Q5 N-B3 98. P-Q4 N-K3 99. P-Q5 N-B3 100. P-Q4 N-K3 101. P-Q5 N-B3 102. P-Q4 N-K3 103. P-Q5 N-B3 104. P-Q4 N-K3 105. P-Q5 N-B3 106. P-Q4 N-K3 107. P-Q5 N-B3 108. P-Q4 N-K3 109. P-Q5 N-B3 110. P-Q4 N-K3 111. P-Q5 N-B3 112. P-Q4 N-K3 113. P-Q5 N-B3 114. P-Q4 N-K3 115. P-Q5 N-B3 116. P-Q4 N-K3 117. P-Q5 N-B3 118. P-Q4 N-K3 119. P-Q5 N-B3 120. P-Q4 N-K3 121. P-Q5 N-B3 122. P-Q4 N-K3 123. P-Q5 N-B3 124. P-Q4 N-K3 125. P-Q5 N-B3 126. P-Q4 N-K3 127. P-Q5 N-B3 128. P-Q4 N-K3 129. P-Q5 N-B3 130. P-Q4 N-K3 131. P-Q5 N-B3 132. P-Q4 N-K3 133. P-Q5 N-B3 134. P-Q4 N-K3 135. P-Q5 N-B3 136. P-Q4 N-K3 137. P-Q5 N-B3 138. P-Q4 N-K3 139. P-Q5 N-B3 140. P-Q4 N-K3 141. P-Q5 N-B3 142. P-Q4 N-K3 143. P-Q5 N-B3 144. P-Q4 N-K3 145. P-Q5 N-B3 146. P-Q4 N-K3 147. P-Q5 N-B3 148. P-Q4 N-K3 149. P-Q5 N-B3 150. P-Q4 N-K3 151. P-Q5 N-B3 152. P-Q4 N-K3 153. P-Q5 N-B3 154. P-Q4 N-K3 155. P-Q5 N-B3 156. P-Q4 N-K3 157. P-Q5 N-B3 158. P-Q4 N-K3 159. P-Q5 N-B3 160. P-Q4 N-K3 161. P-Q5 N-B3 162. P-Q4 N-K3 163. P-Q5 N-B3 164. P-Q4 N-K3 165. P-Q5 N-B3 166. P-Q4 N-K3 167. P-Q5 N-B3 168. P-Q4 N-K3 169. P-Q5 N-B3 170. P-Q4 N-K3 171. P-Q5 N-B3 172. P-Q4 N-K3 173. P-Q5 N-B3 174. P-Q4 N-K3 175. P-Q5 N-B3 176. P-Q4 N-K3 177. P-Q5 N-B3 178. P-Q4 N-K3 179. P-Q5 N-B3 180. P-Q4 N-K3 181. P-Q5 N-B3 182. P-Q4 N-K3 183. P-Q5 N-B3 184. P-Q4 N-K3 185. P-Q5 N-B3 186. P-Q4 N-K3 187. P-Q5 N-B3 188. P-Q4 N-K3 189. P-Q5 N-B3 190. P-Q4 N-K3 191. P-Q5 N-B3 192. P-Q4 N-K3 193. P-Q5 N-B3 194. P-Q4 N-K3 195. P-Q5 N-B3 196. P-Q4 N-K3 197. P-Q5 N-B3 198. P-Q4 N-K3 199. P-Q5 N-B3 200. P-Q4 N-K3 201. P-Q5 N-B3 202. P-Q4 N-K3 203. P-Q5 N-B3 204. P-Q4 N-K3 205. P-Q5 N-B3 206. P-Q4 N-K3 207. P-Q5 N-B3 208. P-Q4 N-K3 209. P-Q5 N-B3 210. P-Q4 N-K3 211. P-Q5 N-B3 212. P-Q4 N-K3 213. P-Q5 N-B3 214. P-Q4 N-K3 215. P-Q5 N-B3 216. P-Q4 N-K3 217. P-Q5 N-B3 218. P-Q4 N-K3 219. P-Q5 N-B3 220. P-Q4 N-K3 221. P-Q5 N-B3 222. P-Q4 N-K3 223. P-Q5 N-B3 224. P-Q4 N-K3 225. P-Q5 N-B3 226. P-Q4 N-K3 227. P-Q5 N-B3 228. P-Q4 N-K3 229. P-Q5 N-B3 230. P-Q4 N-K3 231. P-Q5 N-B3 232. P-Q4 N-K3 233. P-Q5 N-B3 234. P-Q4 N-K3 235. P-Q5 N-B3 236. P-Q4 N-K3 237. P-Q5 N-B3 238. P-Q4 N-K3 239. P-Q5 N-B3 240. P-Q4 N-K3 241. P-Q5 N-B3 242. P-Q4 N-K3 243. P-Q5 N-B3 244. P-Q4 N-K3 245. P-Q5 N-B3 246. P-Q4 N-K3 247. P-Q5 N-B3 248. P-Q4 N-K3 249. P-Q5 N-B3 250. P-Q4 N-K3 251. P-Q5 N-B3 252. P-Q4 N-K3 253. P-Q5 N-B3 254. P-Q4 N-K3 255. P-Q5 N-B3 256. P-Q4 N-K3 257. P-Q5 N-B3 258. P-Q4 N-K3 259. P-Q5 N-B3 260. P-Q4 N-K3 261. P-Q5 N-B3 262. P-Q4 N-K3 263. P-Q5 N-B3 264. P-Q4 N-K3 265. P-Q5 N-B3 266. P-Q4 N-K3 267. P-Q5 N-B3 268. P-Q4 N-K3 269. P-Q5 N-B3 270. P-Q4 N-K3 271. P-Q5 N-B3 272. P-Q4 N-K3 273. P-Q5 N-B3 274. P-Q4 N-K3 275. P-Q5 N-B3 276. P-Q4 N-K3 277. P-Q5 N-B3 278. P-Q4 N-K3 279. P-Q5 N-B3 280. P-Q4 N-K3 281. P-Q5 N-B3 282. P-Q4 N-K3 283. P-Q5 N-B3 284. P-Q4 N-K3 285. P-Q5 N-B3 286. P-Q4 N-K3 287. P-Q5 N-B3 288. P-Q4 N-K3 289. P-Q5 N-B3 290. P-Q4 N-K3 291. P-Q5 N-B3 292. P-Q4 N-K3 293. P-Q5 N-B3 294. P-Q4 N-K3 295. P-Q5 N-B3 296. P-Q4 N-K3 297. P-Q5 N-B3 298. P-Q4 N-K3 299. P-Q5 N-B3 300. P-Q4 N-K3 301. P-Q5 N-B3 302. P-Q4 N-K3 303. P-Q5 N-B3 304. P-Q4 N-K3 305. P-Q5 N-B3 306. P-Q4 N-K3 307. P-Q5 N-B3 308. P-Q4 N-K3 309. P-Q5 N-B3 310. P-Q4 N-K3 311. P-Q5 N-B3 312. P-Q4 N-K3 313. P-Q5 N-B3 314. P-Q4 N-K3 315. P-Q5 N-B3 316. P-Q4 N-K3 317. P-Q5 N-B3 318. P-Q4 N-K3 319. P-Q5 N-B3 320. P-Q4 N-K3 321. P-Q5 N-B3 322. P-Q4 N-K3 323. P-Q5 N-B3 324. P-Q4 N

Travel I

Two sides to Barbados

Having "flown the flag" from Heathrow for several hours, I was certainly anxious to get on to firm ground and begin my visit to the island of Barbados. The flight had been as comfortable as one could expect, but too long on any aircraft, physically and mentally draining experience. And the anticipation of arrival had sharpened my desire to be at journey's end.

Four years had passed since I was last on the island. Four years since I had made my way up Highway One from Bridgetown, north along the languid Caribbean shore. Four years since I had walked along the Atlantic beach near Bathsheba, since I had driven through the fields of tall green sugar cane. During those years I had savoured my memories and they had grown richer with the passing of time. I was most anxious to renew old acquaintance.

My very first minutes on the island were not pleasant ones. When a couple of Boeing 747s arrive in quick succession at Grantley Adams Airport, a chaos of monumental proportions ensues—or ensues on the occasion of which I write. My temper was not greatly improved by being told afterwards that all would be smoother and easier "when the extension comes into operation". (It was, in fact, scheduled to handle its first passengers last October, so I hope all is now smoother and easier.)

A hazardous drive through the warm evening—the Bajau taxi driver's attitude towards his and other vehicles, and belief in his supreme ability brought us to the Tamarind Cove hotel, one of many which line the west coast. An excellent place it proved to be, with a mixture of British and north American visitors, and not too large, so a pleasant clublike atmosphere was engendered.

One of the things that always tends to slip the British mind when contemplating the Caribbean, particularly those islands which used to be ours, is that Americans are much in evidence because for them the islands are easy of access. Canadians, too, get down there on modestly priced package deals, and one of the aims of good hotel keeping is to get the balance of nationalities right. The Tamarind Cove had achieved that, or at least it



Royal palms on the east coast of Barbados.

had during the time we were there.

It does not take long to settle into a routine under such circumstances, the first few days being spent "unwinding" and taking pleasure simply from the fine weather. How satisfying to walk along the wide coral sands which curve

around the bay and to plunge into the Caribbean.

So the days passed. We became used to the pace of the Caribbean. Or, to put it another way, we stopped fretting about slow service at breakfast. Then we entered upon phase two of the holiday. The "don't let's just lie around here. Let's do something" phase.

What you have to do on Barbados when this point is reached is hire a "Moke" and make the most of mobility. The "Moke" is a vehicle tailor-made for the tropics. Open topped and open sided, it carries you around the eleven parishes, the 166 square miles of Barbados, from one shore to another. South from Tamarind Cove, past Buccaner Bay and Coconut Creek and Paradise Beach, through the tangled traffic of Bridgetown and east past the airport to Crane Beach and the hotel there. Or north along Highway One, through Hoielstown and Speightstown, either to the island's northernmost point and Antel Flower Cave, or across the parishes of St. James and St. Andrew to the Atlantic Coast.

A pounding, bracing antidote to the Caribbean, this is, indeed, one of the best things about Barbados is the contrast between the two coastlines, for when the Caribbean—or the rum punch—brings on lassitude, the Atlantic spray and the Atlantic breeze will clear the senses. There are, as I remember, just three hotels on that coast, all near the fishing port of Bathsheba—though "port" is not an accurate word in this context, conjuring up images of jetties and loading sheds. Bathsheba is a delightful place, for its simplicity makes it delightful. Boats are brought close to the shore and the catch is unloaded on to the rocky strand. And there are always boats hauled up on the beach, being painted or repaired.

Of those hotels, I have visited, and would certainly recommend the Sandy Lane (in my opinion, the island's best) the Buccaner Bay, Paradise Beach, and the relatively new Treasure Beach.

Because the Tamarind Cove is a member of the St. James Beach hotel group, it offers its guests exchange dining facilities at the Discovery Bay Inn and the Coty Club, further north. We took advantage of this, as I would recommend any visitor to do, for other hotels have similar arrangements. As on many other islands, the Barbados night life is largely confined to the hotels, and falls into a pattern of steel band entertainment, limbo dancing (which, I am told, originated as an exercise to straighten backs bent in the

cane fields all day) and modest cabaret.

On this visit, I also spent a little time at the Crane Beach hotel, on the south east corner of the island. A lot of renovation work was in progress and some months ago a new manager arrived there, so I have every reason to believe this hotel will prosper remarkably. It deserves to do so, for its location is splendid—high above the beach on which the Atlantic rolls, yet sheltered from the full force of that sea.

Various tour operating companies offer inclusive holidays to Barbados, among them British Airways' Spidebird, many of whose customers were at the Tamarind Cove during my own visit.

It is also possible, of course, to buy an advance purchase excursion air fare, and add on to it accommodation at the hotel of your choice. British Airways and Caribbean Airways both serve the island

from the United Kingdom. Any competent travel agent would be able to help you. If you need help, to do this, and it is a form of "do-it-yourself" package holiday about which I hope to write in a future article. It is certainly a general development—this linking of a low price air fare to accommodation arranged especially for the individual—that is becoming widespread.

The Barbados Tourist Board, at 6 Upper Belgrave Street, London, SW1X 8AZ, will provide information about the island, and tour companies which offer hotel and villa holidays there.

The central booking office of Prestige Hotels, mentioned by John Carter in his travel article of January 26, is now Travel House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EX (Tel. 01-568 6841).

John Carter

Travel II

Hemingway drank here

It all started on the plane with heady talk about the Spanish Civil War, and Ernest Hemingway and Dorothy Parker and other literary adventure-seekers who spent their time between dispatches in the bars of war-torn Madrid. Were those bars still there, we wondered, and could we find them, or at least one, to drink a salutary to their memories and good times?

We were on our way to a long weekend break in Madrid, a city not known to every man and his neighbour as, say, Paris or Rome, and the prospect was exhilarating. Cities are not always ideal winter places, but when we arrived there was enough sun to make walking in Madrid an invigorating pleasure—particularly as the armies of tourists had not yet descended to fill the restaurants and cafés.

For 199, Pegasus Holidays (flight by Monarch Airlines) offered a long weekend at the ritzy four star Los Galgos Hotel (English breakfast included) at the posh end of the city. And you can't do better than that. Pegasus also arranged coach tours of the city and beyond as extras. We went on three, conducted in our case by a flashing-eyed Madrilenian called Conchita, who between describing the delights of her city is a practising lawyer and a champion of women's rights.

But back to Hemingway. On the first day, with help from a resident British correspondent, some close map work and a fast cab, we cracked down the Cerveteria Alemana in the Plaza Santa Ana, a delightfully dingy café with wooden paneling, gas lamps and marble-topped tables, most of them swash with spilt beer, and staffed by sad faced waiters who seemed prepared to serve drinks all night. There was talk, laughter, the clink of glasses, much handshaking and very large measures. The place had Hemingway written all over it.

It is said that in this bar, drinking daiquiris and watching the waiters, he got the idea for *A Clean, Well Lighted Place*, that sombre story of a bar—this one—two waiters and the old drunken man. True or not, I wouldn't have raised an eyebrow to see his hairy chest come slamming through the door.

Between drinks we met a grizzled American who played small parts in spaghetti westerns and said about as much as Gary Cooper, and a slip of an English girl with a pert face and cold hands who stripped for a living at a nearby club.

Next day it was off to the Prado, where we gorged ourselves on the Goyas, Rembrandts and fleshy state of Rubens' ladies, climbing enough stairs to make you not bother with jogging for a month. The Prado, for all its magnificence, seemed too dark inside, and the paintings dusty.

Out on the street the wind was cold and through our taxi window (we didn't pay more than £1 for short journeys) the bare poplar trees stood

green as if just freshly painted, and the fountains played brilliantly in the pale sunshine. Saturday night and dinner in Old Madrid at the Casa Botin in the aptly named Street of the Suckling Pigs, a splendid restaurant on several floors that has served food for 300 years. (On your way up the stairs look into the kitchen at the pork sizzling in the flames in an open oven. Everyone does.) Here you can feast for £3 (even if you get the pig's ear, as I did) including wine served in jugs that are ever filled and be serenaded by troubadours.

Sunday is open air day in Madrid. In the Plaza Mayor the bars around the cobblestone square are full. Inside most of them smoked hams, looking like old lumps of leather, hang from hooks and on ledges are rows of open-topped mishapen bottles full of vino, ready to be poured. It is time for Tapas, the Madrilenian love—shrimps, marinated mussels, croquettes of cod and scoops of salty rice, served on white saucers. We dipped into each other's, but my favourite was champignons in olive oil, served hot enough to burn your fingers.

It is still early, so off to the Retiro, Madrid's sprawling flea market, to join the tens of thousands thronging the stalls where everything and anything is for sale from shrilly birds in tiny gift cages to furniture and tat. Mostly tat. Everyone pushes and shoves and shoves. It is like a hundred Petticoat Lanes. Suddenly it becomes claustrophobic, but how to get away from this jostling multitude? We found a narrow side street bar seemed to have only a thousand people in it and walked behind a man pushing his way through, using a huge antiquated brass bedhead as a battering ram. What must it be like when the tourists are here as well and the temperature reaches 100 degrees? Hell could be a better place.

A chilled fino restores the senses and we seek out the quiet of the Royal Palace, all shimmering white against the blue sky.

Then a final look at the city: hope buildings, avenues seven car-lanes wide (and not a parking meter in sight); massive blocks of flats, their drabness softened by rows of washing hanging precariously from window ledges; the jarring note of graffiti, and soft porn magazines leering from bookstalls; throngs outside neon-lit cine-

mas (Clint Eastwood was everywhere) gipsies sitting oddly on the shafts of their horse-drawn carts, heads jolting up and down with the beat of the hooves: smart hotels and peeling plaster on centuries old walls.

The delightful Conchita showed us the clock in the Puerto del Sol by which all Madrid sets its watch. Here, on New Year's Eve, revellers brave enough to stomach the biting cold, take champagne and 12 grapes and eat one at every stroke of the clock to midnight. A ritual for the young, I thought. But Papa Hemingway would have joined in.

Derek Darby

Further information from Pegasus Winter City Holidays, 33/35 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1, 826 2151.

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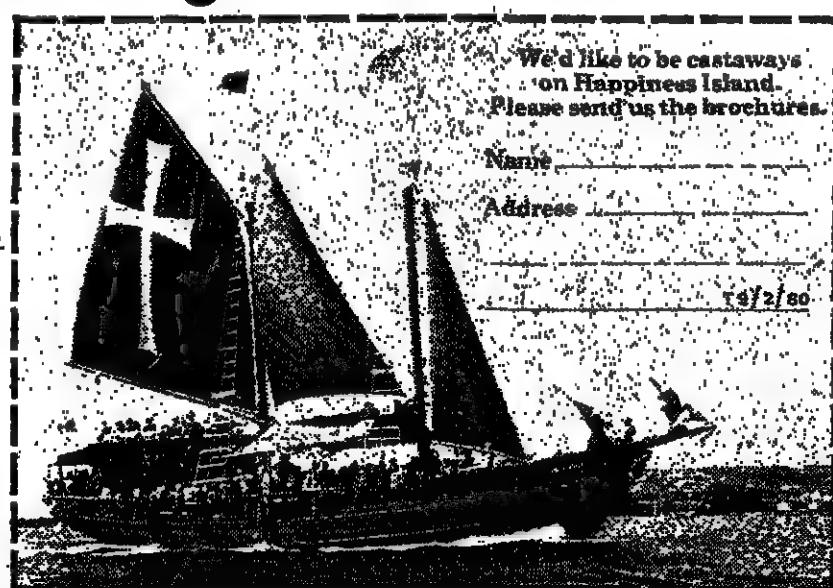
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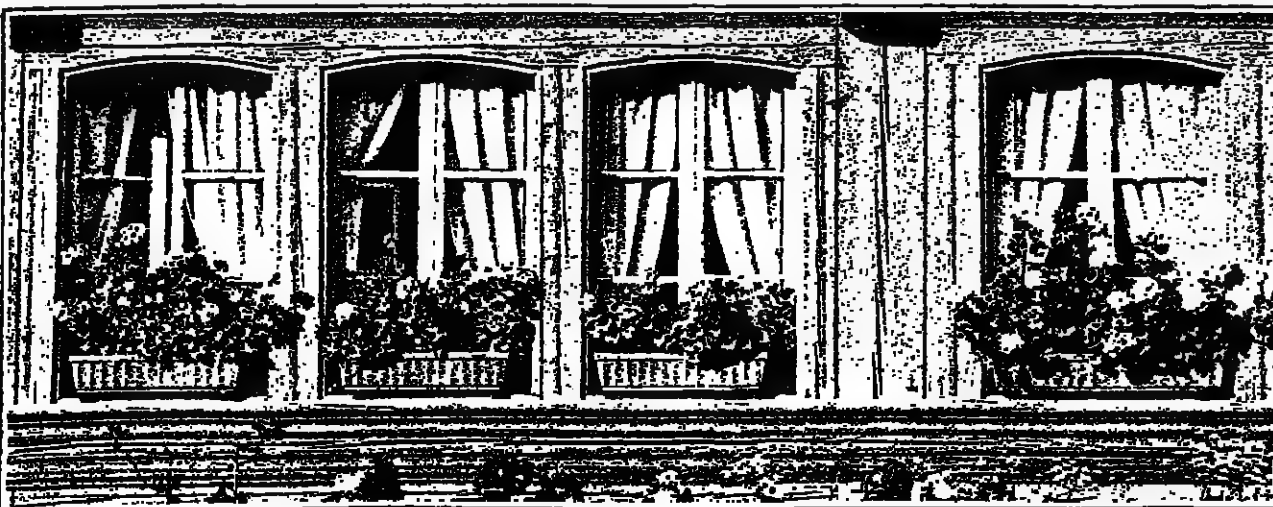
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We Swiss would like to congratulate the philosopher Diogenes on his modesty. After all, we have always had a soft spot for people who can rise to great thoughts and can achieve true happiness in such narrow confines. There is one piece of advice we should have given him if we had ever been asked: he should have made a window in his hut! More light would have fallen into his living-room, and nobody would have been able to stand in his sun. For our part, we make sure that we have plenty of windows—and plenty of cosy living-rooms behind them.



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Fred Emery

Can Mr Prior avert a third union war?

The spasm of impotent rage that has convulsed Conservatives in and out of politics this week over the Government's inability to change the law is not yet spent. It may be that the reforms in the Government's Employment Bill will not be in force until next autumn's round of strikes. But the effect of the past few days' clamour for action means almost certainly that the law will contain tougher measures than originally intended.

This places a critical strain on the Cabinet, particularly Mr James Prior, the embattled Secretary of State for Employment. His whole strategy has been to avert a Third War with the union leadership which the Government would be bound to lose as the Wilson and Heath governments lost theirs. With a passion that belies the smear of pussy footing he has been, is still, pushing for the highest stakes of national survival as he sees it. His friends regret only that he did not start to man his defences earlier.

The ultimate deterrent Mr Prior seeks is sustained public support for the reforms he is proposing, not a populist reaction that might evaporate at its first trial of strength. Until Christmas, not without fierce disputation with Cabinet colleagues, he had been carrying the argument.

It is obvious what has gone wrong—the steel strike coupled with Lord Denning and his colleagues of the Appeal Court. The effect of their ruling, and the effect of the reversal, was to precipitate emotions over the law as it stands. It cannot be right, rang out the cry from ministers; never let it happen again, clamoured backbenchers.

Mr Prior had tried heading off the attack. The previous week he had

announced the Government would definitely amend its Bill to restrict immunities, but that made him only vulnerable to the inevitable charge of too little too late.

Overly Mr Prior has ended his critical week much as he began. On Sunday he was telling radio listeners the Cabinet would not be rushed; the same insistence emerged at the reportedly impressive performance he gave facing down his critics at Thursday's overblown private meeting of the 1922 Committee of all Conservative backbenchers. But that is not the whole story.

Others had envisaged a different scenario. The militant leader writers of *The Daily Telegraph* also ended their week much as they began. On Monday they told us "it may be no exaggeration to say that the coming week will seal the fate of the Thatcher administration". By Friday they suggested that a "handful of ministerial resignations" might be preferable to the catastrophe of having Mrs Thatcher beset much longer and "disparate the country's resolve for firm action". The thoroughly disgruntled *Daily Express* editorially thundered at Mrs Thatcher: "If you don't act now the writing will be on the tombstone of the Tory Government."

The quotes are reproduced to illustrate for those who missed the crisis why Mr Prior's friends began suspecting that a campaign was being waged, and that hostile Cabinet ministers had a hand in it.

Horridly they reacted, trumpeting the hitherto unimpeachable "rough" character of the measures already in the Bill. Mr Prior swooped at very short notice into the standing Commons committee considering his Bill; he wisely grabbed whatever broadcast time he could, and was only too

Some Cabinet members want to seize the hour, almost as if there were no tomorrow

eager to take on the 1922 Committee.

His difficulty was that when MPs returned from their constituencies after last weekend, they were full of the exasperation of their supporters, ordinary and business folk alike. Discontent was instantly channelled into an impressive sounding Commons "early day" motion, by Mr Tony Marlow, the Sandhurst-educated MP for Northampton North, which nearly 100 Conservatives signed. Rather like a Tribune motion put down against Mr Callaghan it boldly summoned the Government to live up to its election manifesto and—*as if* the Prior Bill did not exist—"to introduce immediate legislation to restore industrial equity".

Some signatories had so skimmed their homework that when examined on what extra they wanted had to be told—regarding secondary picketing and the closed shop—that it was already in Mr Prior's Bill. Others were told that if they wanted to prevent private (rather than BSC) steel workers picketing their own place of work they would have to outlaw the right to strike altogether. A few sheepishly admitted to having signed

without reading—by no means an exceptional practice at Westminster.

But Mr Prior's task with Cabinet colleagues proved more difficult. He was unhappy to be stalled by them on Wednesday when he produced draft proposals for limiting union immunities in secondary industrial action. He wanted us all to be reading the paper by now. They wanted him to go back and find even tougher options; next week should see the product.

There is, incidentally, nothing new in Mr Prior embracing the proposal to have unions bear their share of supporting members on strike. He promised as much to the Conservative conference last October; also we may expect other legislation this year to curb social security benefits for strikers and their families.

The Cabinet's present intention, according to my information, is that the pending amendment will be confined to the vexed question of reducing the very wide immunities unions presently enjoy from civil pursuit for damages from employers who become victims of secondary action. The issue

on which ministers presently do not agree is how narrow to define that immunity, and how to punish essential defectors without making martyrs.

One ministerial view was that the more one goes into the matter the more one realizes how difficult it is. But some members of the Cabinet want to seize the hour, almost as if there were no tomorrow. They believe that the opportunity for tough action will not repeat itself, and that its now or never. So there may be a majority for toughening this intricate more than Mr Prior intended.

The trouble with raising expectations is whether, after all the fuss, the satisfaction will be impressed. Will the "markings" in the City be setting as much store by how the Government handles the steel settlement and union reform as by the Budget? Will the public, although depicted in opinion polls to favour actions against union power, stay constant if they feel their own union interest threatened?

A key Prior argument has been to insist on doing nothing to alienate union support. The Conservatives gained at the last election. If the Cabinet now abetted a TUC scare over union bashing might not that support melt away, much as did opinion poll majorities in Mr Callaghan's time who favoured wage restraint except for themselves? And would not Labour at last have an issue around which to unite?

The idea of building a "base camp" with this Bill, and if it holds to climb higher to further measures is one credited to Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC. He is junior minister and very much the lawyer in Mr Prior's department, and close supporter of Mrs Thatcher. Will she accept that it means a hard slog for the bears rather than an exhilarating dash for the top end.



Mr Peter Wilson: ending an era...

How one man broke the sales sound barrier at Sotheby's

Mr Peter Wilson retires as chairman of Sotheby's on Monday, a post that he has held since 1958. It is difficult not to see his departure as the end of an era. Because the glamorous, highly publicized, investment minded art market of today is essentially his creation. His personality has dominated the development of the art trade since the war and revolutionized auctioneering.

When Mr Wilson took over Sotheby's in 1958 the turnover was £5.8m (including unsold lots); last year it topped £180m (excluding unsold lots). He has been the architect of the vast international expansion of the firm. Most significant, perhaps, was the acquisition in 1964 of the New York auctioneer's Parkes Bernet whose turnover now rivals London. But there are also the Amsterdam, Zurich, Monte Carlo, Florence, Hong Kong and Los Angeles sales.

Sotheby's has been transformed into a vast international wholesaler of art and antiques. Art market transactions have moved from behind the closed doors of discreet and confidential art dealers, into the open auction arena and the glare of television lights.

When I asked him what he considered his major achievement Mr Wilson underlined this: "Before 1958 I was always told — or rather, the general view was — that it was impossible to sell an object worth upwards of £40,000 at auction. Around £30,000 was considered the limit. Having broken that sound barrier I think, what I am most proud of."

In fact he achieved this at the very start of his reign. It was in 1958, just after he took over the chairmanship, that Sotheby's held the illustrious Goldschmidt sale of Impressionist pictures. The seven superb Impressionist paintings were sent to London from America for sale in a blaze of publicity; the highest price was for a Cézanne at £220,000, the lowest for a Manet at £65,000.

But he has built steadily on this, convincing an ever increasing number of people that to sell at auction is the way to get top prices for their possessions. The £18m Von Hirsch collection sale of 1978 was the latest, most spectacular example. Prices on individual ensembles went as high as £12m — a far cry from £40,000. What is more the public have been gently coaxed into looking on their art works as liquid assets, repositories of wealth which can be realized at any time by returning the art work to the sale room.

This has generated a major increase in the number of people buying works of art, and an even larger increase in the sums of money they are prepared to invest in any single object.

It can, of course, be pointed out that Christie's are also international wholesalers of art, while the Sotheby's achievement has been a team effort. However, Christie's have unquestionably followed Sotheby's lead, and the staff of Sotheby's would be the first to admit that they look on their chairman as a genius—a thoroughly timesome one at that. Perhaps and that his judgment is depended on matters both great and small. He has helped sort out a porter's matrimonial problems in his time, as well as securing

While retiring as chairman, he remains a director of Sotheby's with special responsibility for generating international business. "I shall have to try not to be obsessed with Sotheby's," he says sadly. He plans to use the eighteenth century mansion outside Grasse, in the South of France, which he bought 15 years ago as his base, and travel extensively.

It is handy for Monte Carlo where Sotheby's held major sales three times a year, but he won't be able to keep more than a long distance finger in Sotheby's London pie.

Geraldine Norman
Salesroom Correspondent

Michael Frenchman takes a fresh look at the Norsemen and their tarnished reputation

Finding a good word for the poor old Vikings

The Viking exhibition opens at the British Museum on February 14 until July 20.

"Vikings!" was the cry that echoed round our shores a thousand and more years ago. It was a cry heard throughout the wastes of Russia, past the Caspian Sea and into the Middle East, and across the Atlantic to Greenland and North America. But who were the Vikings? Were they really barbarians who raped our women, plundered our towns and villages? Were they really such bad news? The short answer is no, at least not entirely.

In the words of Dr David M. Wilson, director of the British Museum, and a leading authority on the Vikings, they had a bit more to them than that. Now Dr Wilson and other leading historians and archaeologists are in the business of trying to put the record right with as much verve and enthusiasm, not to mention money, as they can muster. The campaign had been planned by Satchell and Satchell.

The Vikings, of course, did not exist as such. There were no people named "vikings". One of the most likely explanations is that the term comes from a word generally thought to have been used to describe a voyage to a foreign land—the expression being to "go a viking" (to go on a trip) as Dr Thor Heyerdahl puts it. Hence these people who came from the Nordic countries became known as "vikings".

In fact these Norsemen from Denmark, Southern Sweden, and Norway were incredible maritime architects and ship-builders who made a technological breakthrough with the design of a whole family of ships from raiding vessels, to great cargo carriers and small coastal fishing craft.

They ranged the seas and rivers of Europe and the Mediterranean far and wide. They were not so much raiders as aggressive commercial travellers. From Istanbul to Labrador, Dr Charlotte Blindheim, director of the University Museum in Oslo, is a fervent supporter of the "trader not raider" image borne out by the remarkable archaeological discoveries that



have been made over the last ten to fifteen years.

After much speculation and several hoaxes only diligent archaeological fieldwork by two other Norwegians, Helge and Anne Ingstad, has established the definite existence of a Viking settlement and trading post in Newfoundland. Substantial villages and farms existed on nearby Greenland across the Davis Strait.

Two of the most remarkable discoveries to support the trader theory are the excavations at York and Dublin which have shown that the Vikings had established major trading stations in each place. It was in 793 A.D. that a hit-and-run commando raid on the monastery at Lindisfarne not only signified the beginning of the Viking era as we know it but also gave them a press image with disastrous consequences which lasted for more than a thousand years.

True, the long boats filled with heavily armed warriors (no horned helmets—only tourist advertisements picture them like that) appeared out of the blue and terrorizing the place vanished as fast as they had come. According to

Dr Wilson, the Irish monks, always prone to exaggeration, made the most of it and the word spread—watch out for those devil Vikings.

They appreciated beauty and form. Look at the exquisite shape of the famous Gokstad ship at Oslo, one of the most aesthetically pleasing technological designs in the world, but perhaps not quite so seaworthy as all that. Then they had fine weapons and rich, but not ornate, jewelry in silver and gold. They could also be gentle, generous and gregarious in conversation, especially after a pint or two of home brew.

Drinking, for instance, got them a terrible name according to Magnus Magnusson, who cites the case of a Viking ship's visit to Portland, in Dorset, where a drunken brawl apparently resulted in the death of the local customs officer.

Viking expeditions pushed south to Constantinople where

they formed the Varangian guard, an elite corps who looked after the Emperor; perhaps one of their best known exploits is their participation in the wars of the Crusades and their attacks on the Moslem cities of the Middle East, especially the Mediterranean coast. Today the pattern has changed slightly. Modern Scandinavians still go to war, but as members of the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces, who by a twist of fate are often more than active in the same part of the Middle East as their predecessors were nearly a millennium earlier.

And as traders today the Scandinavians have followed in the footsteps of their forbears—in shipping, aviation and commerce.

Great trading houses, like the Danish East Asiatic Company, span the globe carrying on the tradition started with the long ships. One of the greatest

impacts on modern society has been the influence of Scandinavian design, especially in architecture and in the home with its naturally, cool, clean practicality.

All this and more has come from the Vikings. Continued research and new interpretations of the old Norse sagas and other works shows us another often forgotten role—that of the warring missionary. The Vikings blazed a trail for Christianity often in a true baptism of fire across the north Atlantic beginning with the Faroe Islands, then to Iceland and on to Greenland and the new world of America where the first Christian Viking, brother of Leif Erikson, was buried, according to the sagas.

Interest in the Vikings has revived considerably since the 1960s as more and more discoveries have been made, particularly in Denmark and southern Norway and Sweden

as well as those in the British Isles. These archaeological explorations, which perhaps had their turning point in Denmark with the finding of the Roskilde ships in 1957, and the continuing excavations at Hedeby, have thrown new light on this hitherto dark and rumorous period of history.

It might be said that part of this image projection, or correction, and a reflection of the increasing interest are the reasons why the exhibition on the Vikings is being held at the British Museum from February 14 onwards until July 20. It then goes to the Metropolitan Museum, New York, where it opens in September.

The exhibition is sponsored by the exhibition in association with SAR (Scandinavian Airlines System) and with financial assistance from the Cultural Fund of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

It represents a major attempt to bring together for the first time many items of the Viking period from museums not only in the Nordic countries themselves but from other museums and collections in many countries elsewhere.

Pre-Viking graves at old Upsala, Sweden: archaeological discoveries elsewhere support the 'trader not raider' image

SPORTS DIARY

Well-spent youth on the baize table

If mastery with the cue was once dismissed by Herbert Spencer as the result of a mis-spent youth, events at the billiard table have done much in recent years to invalidate his claim. Anyone earning £4,500 at snooker as first prize for five days' work, for instance, can boast of a youth very well spent indeed.

At the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament, ending in finality at the Wembley Conference Centre, an added incentive to the total of £14,000 in prize money was an offer of £10,000 for the first man to make the maximum break of 147 (15 reds, 15 blacks and all the colours). What the odds are against this happening in a five-day tournament involving 10 men is hard to say for an occurrence as rare as the hole-in-one at golf.

The late Joe Davis, once dubbed as the Sultan of Snooker and the Emperor of Pot, who made this break on January 20,

1955, at the Leicester Square Hall against Willie Smith, could not have envisaged the monetary potential his accomplishment would have in later years.

The careers of most of the competitors at the Masters tournament tell the familiar story of the hard climb to fame from humble beginnings in coal-mining, steelworks and other similar environments. Alex Hickey, a "Hurricane" born in Belfast, was a former apprentice jockey. Whether they lived life in those spheres I do not know, but as artists they have brought to the world of snooker a mordant sense of humour.

The show began each day at the conference centre with the dimming of the surrounding lights and the spotlight resting temporarily on the Master of Ceremonies who first presented the two charming hostesses on either side of him. The wolf whistles which accompanied the announcement on the first afternoon were not repeated. Next was the introduction of the contestants emerging one at a time like gladiators from a pit, armed not with a sword or mace and chain, but a cue and a piece

of chalk. It all added up to good showmanship.

Right to the point

There is a history behind the introduction of the tip of the cue from which generates all the complex shots in the snooker players' repertoire. They owe it all to a French captain named Mingaud who spent much of his time in a Paris jail experimenting with a tipped cue. On his release from prison in 1807 he surprised everybody with his cuemanship but not until the 1820s was chalk introduced as the medium for the leather tip to grip the ball more effectively.

The public never seemed to tire of watching the struggle in the centre of the arena which the Canadian Cliff Thorburn described at the pitch where, while one contestant was in action the other was reduced to a human cue-rack pondering the consequences of his mistakes and wondering when the other man was going to finish.

Some players, like Fred Davis and Higgins broke the silence with an occasional quip. Others, like Thorburn, prefer-

red not to talk. "I want everybody to know that they don't enjoy playing me, which is one of the reasons why I don't talk too much until after the game is over," he said. Thorburn spoke of bigger pockets in Canada, of differences in the nap and how in his early campaign at the conference centre he had to hit the ball much harder than he did in Canada and felt as if he was shovelling coal. By the time he was beaten in the quarter-final round by Terry Griffiths, he was anything but a shoreliner.

This great match has been a sell-out, but when the interval arrived a large number of seats had not been filled. Several hundred people, caught up in a heavy shower and traffic congestion near the Wembley stadium where England were playing football against the Republic of Ireland, could not get to the snooker tournament in time. Many of them, when they arrived, were deceived by the scoreboard which, probably caught up in the tension of a dramatic moment, showed Thorburn leading Griffiths by three frames to one. The correct position was two frames all.

The score could actually have

been 3-1 in favour of Thorburn after the most closely fought of the eight frames played in which luck played as big a part as skill. Griffiths had seen the cue ball disappear into a pocket. Then Thorburn, attempting to clear the table, left the pink between the jaws of a pocket and Griffiths avidly swallowed it helping himself to the black as well. The scoreboard was adjusted for the start of the second half of the match whereupon the football score was announced as: Kevin Keegan 2, Rest of the World 0.

Playing up

Taking a more philosophic view of snooker Thorburn described it as a game in which no player can really get steamed up, unlike tennis when each competitor has a chance to limber up on court. When playing snooker he said, the whole body is inactive except the arm. There was, he admitted, plenty of scope for practice but this took place at least a couple of hours before a snooker match began.

Ray Reardon, as immaculately dressed as the others, the

waistcoat being an essential part of the ensemble, outlined the strict mathematical accuracy, concentration, keen sight and the stamina which the game demands. He scratched and scamped a great deal before he found his touch against Dennis Taylor, saying after the match that it was not the question of winning or losing that bothered a professional but the embarrassment of not playing well. As chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association he was trying to project the image that it was the quality of the play that matters more than the result.

Good loser

Reardon, who was once a miner and later a policeman in Stoke, is of that philosophy which puts failure in its place with laughter. It comes easily to him in conversation. He has brought the game to anyone's doorstep provided they have the right facilities. His brother Ron and cousin John cooperate in the transportation of five hundredweight of slate slabs, cloth, cushions and all the appurten-

ances necessary for the correct assembly of the table on which exhibition matches can be played.

But for versatility few could rival the Australian Eddie Charlton who, encouraged by his grandfather, was attracted to a billiard table when he was nine years old. He, too, was a calm and collected and an accomplished all-round sportsman having at one time or another demonstrated his prowess at football, cricket, boxing, surfing, athletics, tennis and roller skating. He also had the distinction of carrying the Olympic flame through his home town of Swansea—New South Wales, that is—in 1956, the year the Games were held in Melbourne.

Whether Charlton can rival the lineage of the referee, John Smythe, who supervised his matches at the Masters with characteristic aplomb is open to question. He became a professional referee in 1968 and believes himself to be the only man in the world who earns his living in this capacity.

Sydney Friskin

"Splish. No, sorry, you've knocked out my nuclear booklist capacity..."



مكتبة الأصيل



WE HAVE BAD LAWS AND WE MUST PUT THEM RIGHT

The trouble with Mr Prior—or is it, perhaps, his strength?—is that he does not have a conceptual mind. He is at the opposite end of the scale from the French intellectual who argues from defined premises to clear conclusions by a rigorous process of logic. It is more as though he were a sloth, or some other modest and short-sighted animal, feeling his way forward through dense undergrowth, turning aside to avoid a rock on one side or a puddle on the other, and always with an alert sense for the possible presence of predators.

Mr Prior is not alone in British political history in being such a man. Some of our most skilful prime ministers have had these characteristics. Stanley Baldwin even had the peculiar habit of smelling books rather than reading them, as though the sense of smell were a more reliable guide to politics than the capacity to reason. Perhaps it is. Mr Callaghan has been just such another: it is notable that Baldwin, Callaghan and Prior have all found themselves to windward of the proposal to reform trade union law and have all scented danger in such a proposal. "Softly, softly" has been their common maxim, but no monkeys have ever been caught.

The truth is that a politician would need to have a conceptual mind to recognize the way in which trade union law relates to the other issues of government policy. He would need to believe in ideas. He would have to see the reform of trade union law as an idea which has an impact on other policies. Without a rational system of trade union law Britain cannot have a rational system of pay and productivity bargaining; without a rational system of pay bargaining, Britain cannot be competitive in industry; without being competitive in industry, Britain cannot be stable economically; without being stable economically Britain cannot be stable politically; without political stability no government can expect to succeed or survive; therefore without a rational system of trade union law the present Conservative Government is doomed. That is the chain of ideas Mr Prior should be invited to sniff at.

Legal position is crucial

What weapons are available in such a dispute depends on the state of the law. There are many actions which employers could take to strengthen their position and there are also many actions open to the trade unions. In most countries the law limits both sides. Some at least of the actions open to an employer are either prevented by law or open to the employer to an action for damages. In most countries the same is true on the trade union side.

In Britain, as a result of legislation by the Labour Government in 1974 and 1975 and of earlier legislation going back to 1906 and even further, this natural symmetry of law has been destroyed. Employers indeed are subject to very considerable restraints on their freedom of action. The freedom of action of trade unions is virtually absolute; recent decisions by the House of Lords have tended to extend the area of total legal immunity which the trade unions enjoy.

Anyone who has had direct experience of a major industrial dispute knows how crucial the legal conditions are. No employer goes through such a dispute without consulting specialist legal advisers. The trade unions enjoy so wide an immunity that they

can, if they choose, counter almost any lawful move which an employer might make. To say that law should not be brought into trade disputes is absurd: it is already there. The question is not "whether law?" but "what law?" At present we have Michael Foot's law.

Take, not to rehearse the issues but as a matter of experience, one of the crucial passages in the dispute at Times Newspapers. Times Newspapers management wanted to reach a bargain which would exchange higher pay for higher productivity. The offered bargain was not acceptable to the unions. Times Newspapers at one point contemplated printing overseas and did actually print one issue of *The Times* for circulation overseas. This was stopped by international action, which itself turned out to involve unlawful action in terms of German law by the German print union. The action of the British union, the National Graphical Association, was entirely lawful in terms of British law.

Effective use of secondary action

The National Graphical Association threatened at one point to extend the dispute to Thomson regional newspapers, with whom they had no dispute. Under the House of Lords ruling such an extension would also have been entirely lawful. It was decided not to continue with overseas publication even for overseas sale in the light both of the actions and threats of the union, and the dispute never was extended. Nevertheless the union power of secondary action altered the whole balance of the dispute, depriving the employer of the effective capacity to take an action which put pressure on the union, and giving the union a weapon of pressure against the employers.

As a result, it was not until much later, when the relative bargaining positions were brought nearer equality, by a genuine concern on the part of the unions that jobs would be irretrievably lost, that a reasonable settlement could finally be reached. With a different framework of law the fifty week Times Newspapers' stoppage might never have happened, or might have been settled earlier, and might well have produced a greater productivity gain with less disruption. The law conditioned the real bargaining power of the parties at every stage.

We refer to our own experience as an illustration of the principle that it is the balance of the law, the balance between what is lawful for the employer to do and what it is lawful with immunity for the trade union to do, which determines the existence, the timing or the outcome of the dispute. Disputes are decided by bargaining power, and bargaining power is in large part determined by law.

The real bargain between employer and employee is a bargain between pay and productivity. If the employer is strong, he is able to secure a higher improvement of productivity for a given increase of pay. If the union is strong, the union is able to secure a higher increase of pay for a lower improvement of productivity. That, essentially, is what the steel dispute is about. Indeed the phrase "money on the table" means money without a productivity equivalent. To some degree, this pay-productivity ratio is to be found in virtually all trade disputes. Now, in this sense, the public interest is on the side of the employer, for the public interest is to raise the national level of productivity. Yet the law has been written as though the union's interest was automatically that of the public, though the stronger union bargaining power is the lower the rate of increase in productivity.

It is unreasonable and indeed unjust for the Government to commit employers to fighting the battle for productivity while failing to change the balance of the law from what was set by Mr Michael Foot. The law was set so as to give advantage to the trade unions to the highest possi-

ble degree relative to the employers. They have an overwhelming advantage. It is inevitable that while such a law determines the outcome of pay and productivity bargains settlements will be inflationary in terms of pay and disastrous in terms of productivity. That has been the character of most settlements of the last year.

This central balance will be little affected by Mr Prior's Bill as it stands at present. He is right not to hasten on the Bill in order to try and affect the steel dispute, but he was wrong to introduce a weak Bill and is wrong to want to keep it inadequate. The structure of trade union law is too important and too complex a matter to hang on a particular dispute, however serious. Yet the Bill, as originally introduced, would have had little or no effect on the balance of power, outside the limitation of secondary picketing, and even abuses of secondary picketing would have given no recourse to the unions' own funds in damages.

It will do little good to eliminate the immunity in secondary picketing unless the immunity is removed from all secondary action. If some kinds of secondary action have their immunity removed while other kinds of secondary action, say secondary strikes, retain their immunity, then the trade unions will use those weapons which are immune by law, even if they have to forego weapons which are not. We shall have less picketing but more strikes; the effectiveness of trade union power will not be reduced, and the damage may be increased. To affect the balance of bargaining power, and make the balance more equal, it would be necessary to deprive all secondary action—picketing, blacking and striking—of their immunity, and to give recourse to trade union funds in damages.

The need to curb excessive power

Mr Prior's Bill also deals, but only in the most minor way, with a different but extremely important question—that of union democracy. More than half the workers of this country belong to unions. There is no standard in law for the rules of the unions to which they belong. Some unions have satisfactory rules, but, so far as the law is concerned, the unions do not have to consult their members; they do not have to have ballots, either for the election of their officials or for deciding whether to strike or not, nor do the officials have to be elected regularly or in some cases at all. Some unions have a most undemocratic provision which means that their most powerful officials are at some stage elected for life. Members who do not want to strike, and perhaps suspect that a strike may destroy their livelihood, may be called out by officials who may not have been elected in any adequate or democratic way and may not be subject to recall. Most unions have democratic elements in their constitutions, but there is no specific requirement at law, and many of the rule books are grossly defective in terms of democratic accountability.

It is obviously desirable that trade union reform should cover the powers of trade unions on the one hand and should cover trade union democracy on the other. Mr Prior should now amend his present Bill so that it deals effectively with at least some aspects of the problems of excessive trade union power. He should then in the next session be prepared to introduce a Bill which gives the members of trade unions what they are absolutely entitled to, which is a guarantee of democratic procedure in the operation of their unions. This is by no means an extreme proposal; higher productivity for Britain, equality of rights under the law, democratic accountability in trade unions are not partisan objectives; who, after all, advocates lower productivity, inequality before the law, or undemocratic trade unions? We have bad laws and we must put them right.

Government and the unions: bridging the gulf

From the General Secretary, Engineers' and Managers' Association
Sir, The Government is coming under intense pressure to introduce still tougher legislation to deal with secondary industrial action. It will make a bad mistake to yield to it. The pressure has arisen from the circumstances of the steel strike. To yield to it would be to place the blame, politically, for the steel strike on the steel unions. This would be regarded by virtually all shades of opinion in the trade union movement as a vindictive reaction to the strike, the blame for which actually lies fairly and squarely on gross mismanagement by the Government, assisted by palpable industrial relations naivety at the top of British Steel. These are widespread opinions, not just my own.

If the Government is having further thoughts about the Employment Bill it should take stock of where its hard line policy is taking it. Is it really content that 50,000 jobs should be axed in Wales in just a few months time? Is it really out of the question for the Welsh TUC's proposal for a two year transitional period to be considered? Surely the Government does not desire to spread bitterness and division in our society?

Then there is the Government's attitude to the unions. Basically it does not exist. At least, it is carrying out its industrial policies as if they do not exist, and to the extent that they do, in steel, that they must simply be beaten down. I know there are some who carry on as if it is evident that there is no communication, and one gets the impression that that is how the Government really think this is realistic?

My main point is that instead of striking, or appearing to strike, divisive—and even on occasions vindictive—attitudes, thereby turning our beleaguered industry into a battlefield, the Government ought to be seeking ways to bridge the gulf that exists between them and the unions. That is so even though it is true, as we all know it to be, that we have massive problems of industrial inefficiency to overcome. But this country simply cannot afford to return to the bitterness and severed antagonisms of the 1920s and 1930s. I accept without reservation that we in the trade unions have to play our part, and it is a major part. So do the great majority of my trade union colleagues. But the Government has to play its part.

JOHN LYONS, General Secretary, Engineers' and Managers' Association, Station House, Fox Lane North, Chertsey, Surrey.

Primary maths teaching

From Mr D. R. Bowes
Sir, The story of Schenkel accusing Einstein of not being able to count when they were playing piano-forte duets may have some relevance to the mathematics and mathematics teaching in primary schools.

There are the majority of children who require and respond to a meaningful and structured curriculum of basic numeracy for their own needs. There are also the gifted minority of young talented natural mathematicians who require a wider and more specialized course in school for stretching to the full their mathematical thinking and imagination. Unfortunately, over many years, an erroneous assumption has been held by many educationally-inspired educationalists that all children can become gifted mathematicians, if merely given the so-called enlightened treatment of liberal education, involving the use of methods and involving them superficially in every sophisticated mathematical idea from the sieve of Eratosthenes to the Fibonacci series.

The results, as we know, have been futile and disastrous. Far from becoming gifted mathematicians, children, by being denied the necessary formal instruction and exercise to achieve basic numeracy, have often left school without the written mathematical skills life demands. It is a pity that it should be known that in the vast majority of primary schools teachers are well aware of the problem involved with the need to provide for both future citizen and budding mathematician, though it has to be admitted full provisions for the latter require an expertise of teaching and organization that is rarely available in primary schools at the moment.

I am, yours truly, D. R. BOWES, Headmaster, Northwood School, Crickfield Lane, Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire.

Australians at cricket

From Mr Neville Clark
Sir, As an Australian resident in Britain I applaud the justice of your editorial criticism of my countrymen's behaviour during the recent Test cricket series. My only consolation is that it was not always thus and perhaps when the Australian Cricket Board finally rather than the courage to drop the spoilt and ageing children from the present (regrettably) victorious team, we shall once again be able to take pride in defeating the Old Enemy. Yours faithfully, NEVILLE CLARK, 7 Comely Bank, Edinburgh.

Complete washout

From Dame Mary Smirton
Sir, I refer to the article in *The Times* of February 1, alleging that the British do not have their clothes dry cleaned often enough. One reason may be that many housewives find, as I do, that the labels on clothes saying "dry clean only" can be misleading and that garments so labelled often wash satisfactorily. Yours truly, MARY SMIRTON, 14 St George's Road, St Margaret's, Twickenham, Middlesex.

From Mr Robert Davies

Sir, Professor Rees (letter, February 6) argues that changes in industrial structure, as represented by the proposed contraction of the steel industry in South Wales, are in the short term, painful to those involved and costly to the rest of us. What he does not say is that such changes are also necessary in the interests of long-term economic progress.

To artificially maintain employment in industries where demand is falling or which are internationally uncompetitive is to frustrate and prevent the reallocation of resources into growth sectors. Much of the decline in Britain's economic fortunes discussed in your columns surely has its origins in a resistance to and inability to cope with change. Attempting to fossilize the industrial structure, as Professor Rees would have us do, is hardly an answer. Yours faithfully, ROBERT DAVIES, Director, City Engineering (Bristol) Ltd, 7 Mags Lane, Frodoys Trading Estate, Bristol, February 6.

From Mr Allan Kerr

Sir, In your editorial concerning the dismissal of Mr Derek Robinson, the AUEW convenor at the BL Longbridge plant (February 7), you criticize the executive of the AUEW (Engineering Section) for their failure to deal with the right of an individual to exercise a new strategy to that held by the majority of employees.

As a member of the Labour Party, I am concerned at your suggestion that Mr Robinson should be dismissed for publishing this booklet. Although I am opposed to many of the policies advocated by the Conservative Government, are you suggesting that I refrain from campaigning against them on the grounds that I hold a minority viewpoint?

Moreover, am I further to assume that Bernard Lee should cease his support for the minority of individuals in the Soviet Union on the grounds that the government's policies are supported by the overwhelming majority of citizens?

In a country that governs by democracy, we have always advocated that minorities have the right to express their views. Although the majority of employees at BL may disagree with Mr Robinson he, nonetheless, has the fundamental right to express his views. Yours faithfully, ALLAN KERR, 24 Quex Road, NW6, February 7.

Banishing Dr Sakharov

From Miss Elizabeth Bowler
Sir, May I support Professor Penrose (February 7) in his castigation of *Isvestia* for making statements about Dr Sakharov which are "not correct", a mild enough description of what I prefer to call downright distortion.

I first met Dr Sakharov in 1972 when living in Moscow and last saw him just over two years ago, at a meeting I reported in an article in your newspaper. He is a man of iron courage and the gentle humility of the truly great. I have heard him described by fellow Russians as a "saintly man", and though he would demur, many who have met him have felt the impact of his deeply Christian but wholly practical qualities quite unadorned by mysticism. For *Isvestia* to attempt to dismiss him as "an extremely vain and conceited person" is grotesque and would be laughable were it not wholly tragic.

As for suggestions also made by *Isvestia* that Dr Sakharov was a "traitor" who blurted out state secrets to all and sundry, may I say that I never met a dissident more

From Mr Keith Fagan

Sir, Like many of your correspondents, I too believe that trade unions have too much power and that some of them tend to abuse it. Even so, and without myself knowing what the solution to the problem is, I doubt whether further legislation is the answer.

It seems to me that, in a democracy, legislation must be with the consent of the majority of those sought to be bound by such legislation, as democracy envisages government by consent rather than by compulsion.

It may be that previous legislators have gone too far in conferring almost limitless powers on trade unions, but it is notoriously difficult to remove rights once they have been given, and it seems fairly clear that the unions would see any future legislation which seeks to limit their powers as an infringement of the rights of their members.

Whether their fears in this respect are justified or not is surely beside the point. What is very much to the point is that the unions have sufficient power in fact—whether legally bestowed or not—to ignore with impunity any legislation that does not appeal to them: if a large section of the community decides as a body to break a law that they consider to be against their interests, you cannot fine or imprison every member of that section of the community. This is precisely why the industrial relations legislation of the Heath administration failed.

Furthermore, to impose legislation that has no teeth because nobody will obey it is bad legislation and worse than no legislation at all, for it brings the law into contempt—and disrespect for the law is a giant stride along the road to anarchy.

For these reasons, if there is to be any limitation of trade union powers, I think it has to come because trade unionists themselves see a need to limit their powers. Any reform of trade unions that may be necessary must in my opinion be made voluntarily and democratically from within the unions themselves, for I do not think it can be effectively imposed from outside the unions, and least of all by what the unions will see as anti-union legislation. Yours faithfully, KEITH FAGAN, 13 Mayfair Court, Mayfair Close, Beckenham, Kent, February 7.

obviously loyal to his own country, nor one more measured and secure in the criticisms he made—the right to make which is, I would remind the Soviet authorities, enshrined still in the new 1977 Soviet Constitution. Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH BOWLER, 23 Victoria Road North, Southampton, Hampshire, February 7.

From Mr E. H. St G. Moss

Sir, Dr Sakharov has been standing up for (i) his opinions, and (ii) for the right to express them. Mr E. P. Thompson (January 30) would deny to those who do not support him over (i) any right to support him over (ii), or at least to criticize the Soviet Union for its position over (ii).

But this is illogical. For most of us the second issue is by far the most important. Yours faithfully, E. H. ST G. MOSS, 29 Guildown Avenue, Guildford, Surrey.

Sharif of Mecca and his son Faisal, leaders of the Arab revolt, and quotations from the Shah's proclamation depicting the Turkish ministers as bad Muslims.

The proposal was referred to Arnold Toynbee, at the Political Intelligence Department, for comment. He said that it was useless to show Turkish ministers as bad Muslims. "The one thing," he wrote, "that would be certain to win them would be a formal declaration that we mean to give self-determination."

How much strife and bloodshed would have been avoided had Lloyd George and Balfour followed this advice.

Yours faithfully, A. L. TIBAWI, 7 Cranbrook Drive, Esher, Surrey.

Protection of open spaces

From Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, and others
Sir, London is deservedly celebrated for its parks and open spaces, but of all those within a few miles of its centre none is more varied or gives a greater illusion of genuine country than Hampstead Heath. This illusion is particularly notable in its northern part, where the landscape extends uphill to the Hampstead/Highgate ridge in thickly wooded sites through which few buildings intrude.

This priceless asset can too readily be taken for granted, and the effect that development would have upon it may not be realized before it is too late. It is now in imminent danger, for there are two planning applications, albeit alternatives, to build houses on the slopes of the Witanhurst estate below Highgate Village.

Permission for either proposal would inevitably result in the loss of a great number of the trees that give this landscape its character and would expose intrusive buildings to the view from the Heath, destroying the illusion of its extent. The loss would be irreparable.

Some 16,000 people have appreciated the finger sticking to the lip, a petition, plucking that no development should be allowed. It is to be hoped that Camden Council will recognize that this is not a

Site for The Games near Olympia

From Mr B. F. Cook
Sir, There is much to be said for the view that the Olympic Games should find a permanent home in Greece, especially since the Greek Government has generously offered not only to provide the necessary land but even to cede sovereignty over it to an international body. While agreeing that the Games ought to be held in the neighbourhood of Olympia, their original home in antiquity, I should as an archaeologist find it alarming if the necessarily extensive facilities were to be built at Olympia itself, or even too close to the ancient site.

All archaeological sites are vulnerable. On the Acropolis at Athens, for example, it has become necessary to protect not only the ancient buildings but even the rock of the Acropolis itself from the constant wear of visitors' feet. The site of Olympia is much more fragile than the Acropolis, and the damage that could be done by sudden large influxes of visitors is incalculable. To avoid an archaeological disaster the new Olympia must be some distance removed from the old.

Far from causing difficulties, these considerations may help to solve the problem of where to build the sports complex and the Olympic village. Ancient Olympia lies some twelve miles from the sea, and there would be plenty of room in the coastal plain for the new Olympia: there are even lagoons that might be used for sailing. The Olympic torch, traditionally kindled in the ancient site, could easily be brought over this distance by runners to the Olympic cauldron, which even so would be possible to run the marathon by a suitable route from ancient Olympia to the new stadium. In other respects the ruins of Olympia should for their protection be kept apart from the modern Games.

Yours faithfully, B. F. COOK, Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1, February 7.

Historic buildings

From Mr Nicolas Barker
Sir, There are disquieting reasons for believing that the Government is dismantling the little protection that exists for listed buildings in public ownership as a political sweetener for the cuts. Recently a test case was fought by national and local conservation societies, including the Nottingham Dale History Centre, over the Silchester Baths, a magnificent Victorian complex owned by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The borough and conservation societies refused to discuss retention although the costs of conversion and rebuilding were comparable. A public enquiry was held before a DOE Inspector in April 1979 and we have been waiting for the Minister's decision in the light of his statement, up to now with some confidence.

Until recently, an owner who has once been refused consent to demolish a listed building has never been granted consent on a second application, unless a reasonable attempt has been made to find a use for it with no success. (In our case, abundant evidence of plans for constructive use were put forward.) This principle—in itself a weak enough expression of the nation's will to protect its finite stock of listed buildings—has now apparently been scrapped.

Recent applications by public authorities for the demolition of listed buildings have been treated with a new indifference. The Minister, it is alleged, has refused to demolish the last Georgian building in central Manchester, overturning his Inspector's recommendation. Now there are rumours that the Inspector's recommendation in the Kensington College's application is in danger of being reversed. Perhaps the demolition of the Manchester Arms Hotel is defensible on the grounds of cost. The demolition of the Kensington Baths is not. Instead, it would set an important precedent that would encourage public authorities to ignore listed building legislation.

The prospect must fill with alarm all those who care about our heritage. We hope we are wrong about our case, and that the Minister's decision will restore the confidence of the many groups involved in preserving the Silchester Baths, and in similar conservation projects all over the country.

Yours, NICOLAS BARKER, Chairman, Nottingham Dale History Centre, 22 Clarendon Road, W11.

Buried treasure

From Mr Nigel Bryant
Sir, Last Saturday (January 26) after reading your fascinating front page story about the discovery of a Bernini bust in London, I went along the V and A to see it. At the main entrance the attendant was polite but could not say where it was. In the sculpture gallery I was firmly told it would not be on display for three months. However, being persistent, I eventually found it in room 10.

Questions for Dr Strong:
1 Why not a notice at the entrance?
2 Why not tell the attendants? They never tell us anything?
3 Why not revive the "Recent Acquisitions" room?
I personally redirected three visitors to room 10, who got the same treatment as I did. A detailed note in the suggestion box has produced no reply from the museum. Yours faithfully, NIGEL BRYANT, 23 Kensington Court, W8.

Pickets everywhere

From Mr R. Coulson
Sir, A sign of the time we live in: whilst passing a bit queue today, not a common sight in Shropshire, an eight-year-old exclaimed: "Look, a picket-line!" Yours faithfully, R. COULSON, 3 Wyke Rise, Wellington, Shropshire.

Christians in Russia

From Professor Dimitri Obolensky and others
Sir, We the undersigned, members of the Russian Orthodox Church or present or past teachers in British universities, write to express our deep concern at the recent arrests in the Soviet Union of several active Christians.

One of the most prominent, Father Dimitri Dudko, was the subject of an admirable article by Miss Jane Ellis, published by you (January 29). Earlier arrests—among other Russian Orthodox—were those of Father Gleb Yakunin, Mother Valeriya Makarsa and Mr Lev Rogozin, who have received less publicity.

We are moved to draw attention to their plight by the knowledge that the hierarchy of the Russian Church, to whom in any normally humane society they would be entitled to look for protection, is effectively inhibited from openly coming to their help; and by the fear that, in the repressive climate now prevailing in the Soviet Union,

further arrests of Christians are only too likely.

In their refusal to surrender the basic human right to proclaim one's faith, these Russian Christians have earned the respect of all those who, in their native land, still prize the qualities of courage and integrity. They surely deserve to be reckoned, along with Dr Andrey Sakharov, "the conscience of the Russian people".

Yours faithfully, DIMITRI OBOLENSKY, NIKOLAY NIKOLAYEV, P. BUKHARIN, JOHN FENNEL, GRIGORY FELIG, NIKOLAI GORODETSKY, Christ Church, Oxford.

The abortion debate

From Mr J. L. Hoar
Sir, Professor W. H. Thorpe (February 7) evidently has very little to say for handicapped persons even if they are absolutely sane; he sug-

gests that the "vast majority of people" would approve of any abortion in which there was a possibility that the child would be handicapped. I wonder if he has consulted with any handicapped men, women or children, or those who care for them, and asked them whether they regard their lives as useless?

More worrying still is his assertion that "A foetus which has barely started to be able to coordinate its senses and certainly cannot make choices cannot be described as a person". What, therefore, can be Professor Thorpe's opinion of mentally handicapped persons—children and adults? Are they non-persons in his vocabulary? Wasn't this the thinking behind Hitler's extermination of the Jews?

Yours faithfully, JOHN HOAR, Ypres Studio, Ockman's Lane, East Street, Rye, Sussex, February 7.

SPORT

Football
United can
take the
pressure off
Liverpool

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Almost just as interesting as Kevin Keegan's remarkable performance for England against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley on Wednesday was the size of the crowd. Over 20,000 attended a match, deprived of some regular England team members, that was not a competitive importance.

Not long ago, English manager would have felt tempted to include one or two more London players simply to attract a few extra spectators. The week of Tottenham Hotspur, suffering by an honest selection that was such a consideration for Ron Greenwood to court potential spectators in north London.

Some Continental managers were astounded by the attendance, so sure there is a lesson for British football at a time when attendances generally are still falling. Success is always the key and England have won much sympathy for their achievements under Mr Greenwood.

While it is probably true that attendances will never return to a dramatic way, the availability of top class football entertainment through an increased programme of television encourages spectators to be more selective. The Americans tell us a lot about turning game into an occasion and Wembley on Wednesday bore this out.

Apart from Keegan's goals, the notable incident was John Souttar's brilliant free kick. Souttar, who has been in the Irish goalkeeping line since he was 15, was superbly accurate. Surprisingly, neither was seriously hurt. Today Peyton resumes his duties as a goalkeeper, having been replaced by Souttar from relegation to save the leading club in the Second Division, Leicester City. Johnson, who has been in the Liverpool's goal since he was 15, is not likely to play.

Even if Johnson were to appear, Liverpool will have to make their first team goalkeeper. Yesterday Souttar went before an FA disciplinary commission and was suspended for one match, a sentence which was received by the manager, Bob Paisley, who can include him in Tuesday's Football League Cup semi-final against the against Nottingham Forest.



Souttar: a lenient suspension of one match.

Mr Paisley made the point that all of Liverpool's matches were like cup ties "but most clubs have about 20 competitive games in a season". That should be provocative enough to make the Irish manager at Norwich today. John Bond's team were outplayed and outwitted by Liverpool in a League Cup tie in December but they have retained a high position in the first division and could present better opposition this afternoon.

It is unlikely to play but Peyton hopes to have recovered from a thigh strain. For Liverpool Lee or Irwin will replace Souttar.

A slip by Liverpool could allow Manchester United to regain the leading position that they held before Christmas. United are at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers who may have their minds on their forthcoming League Cup match against Swindon Town. Wilkins has recovered from the injury that made him unavailable for England and so

replaces Jovanovic in midfield. And Grimes, the Irish left back at Wembley, is a substitute. Wolves will be without Hughes who will not be risked before Tuesday's cup tie.

Another of Wednesday's casualties, O'Leary, the Republic of Ireland's outstanding central defender, hopes that his injured ankle will not prevent him from keeping a hold on Aston Villa's lively forwards at Highbury. Villa have re-established themselves and could find a place in Europe next season.

Like Villa, Ipswich Town have overcome many problems this season but meet Everton at Goodison Park without Mills, whose position is taken by Seaton. Everton have lost their tempo forward, Kidd, who was yesterday suspended for two games after being sent off against Wigan. Kidd misses the FA Cup tie against Wrexham next Saturday as well as today's match.

Boxing

Now the world owes Finnegan a chance

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Kevin Finnegan, who for the first time in his career saw the world sitting on his bottom in the third round of the European middleweight title bout at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Paris on Thursday, looked the world in the face yesterday and said it owed him a title bout with the winner of the Alan Minter-Vito Antufermo contest in Las Vegas next month. For the cockney Irishman got up off the floor, dusted himself down and gave Craden Thomas, of France, a lesson in boxing that had the fearless Frenchman (who once stopped Minter with a blow that split his forehead) blowing and rolling like an empty shell. Finnegan lifted the vacant title on a unanimous points verdict.

This from the man they said at 31 could not be put in the British side, the man they said could not win the European title. Minter is

one of those reported to have said Finnegan would not beat Tonia. To which Finnegan replied: "If he beat me, I'd be out after 45 rounds he ain't never going to." But Sam Burris, Finnegan's manager, says he is going to explore the possibility of Finnegan staging an all-British title bout in the United States. If Minter beats the champion, Antufermo, it is knocking on the door. "It is knocking on the door," Antufermo could make a voluntary defence against Finnegan if he wins. These plans do not mature, Finnegan could settle for the European circuit, making his first defence against, perhaps, Frank Wassen. By then the Lavender Hill mob could be in possession of three middleweight titles. Finnegan's two and Tonia's one. If he wins the Commonwealth title on February 19, in such a happy position Mr Burns said he would be able to

juggle the titles around before discarding one, possibly the British title. After the bout, Finnegan will find the Cockney-Irish painter-fighter, whose lifestyle is almost as Bohemian as that of the impresarios, except that he does not live in a garret. He likes a little bit of wallop, because it prepares you for that groggy feeling in the ring. It was a good feeling, he said, "because I was down, I was out, I was back. There was Tonia in front of me, wasn't he. Then somebody hit me from behind." He showed us a lump behind his back. "That's the size of a Victoria plum. But that blow notwithstanding, there was a piece of brilliant sleight of hand from Tonia in the first round that I will never forget: a right feint high in the air, Finnegan looked up and the Frenchman's left cracked him a beauty."

Tennis

Miss McCallum sees
her bubble burst

Los Angeles, Feb. 8.—The bubble burst for Roberta McCallum as the third seed, Wendy Turnbull of Australia, beat her in the quarter-final of a women's professional tournament yesterday.

Miss McCallum, on the senior circuit for the first time, brought off two surprise results this week by beating Pam Shriver and Kathy Jordan but Miss Turnbull was ready for her. She broke Miss McCallum's serve twice in each set to win 6-2, 6-1.

Miss McCallum, who had been in a large crowd made her nervous and also said she had difficulty seeing her opponent as she tended to bleed in with the yellow seats.

Earlier in the fifth seed, Sue Barker (Britain), and seventh seed, Virginia Ruzici (Romania) scored second-round victories. Miss Barker beat Miss Ruzici 6-3, 6-3 while Miss Ruzici rallied for a 3-6, 6-1 triumph over Marita Redondo.

In the other quarter-final matches, the top seed, Martina Navratilova, will oppose Miss Ruzici and the fourth seed, Virginia Wade (Britain) will play Sue Barker. The semi-finals will be played tomorrow night and the finals on Sunday.

GALLERY: APOCALYPTIC tournament
Roberta McCallum (AUS) 6-2, 6-1; Wendy Turnbull (AUS) 6-2, 6-1; Sue Barker (GBR) 6-3, 6-3; Virginia Ruzici (ROM) 3-6, 6-1; Marita Redondo (ESP) 6-3, 6-3; Martina Navratilova (CZE) 6-3, 6-3; Virginia Wade (GBR) 6-3, 6-3; Sue Barker (GBR) 6-3, 6-3.

Luna overcomes attack
of nerves and Okker

Seville, Feb. 8.—Fernando Luna, a newcomer to the Davis Cup, beat the Netherlands when he beat Tom Okker 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 in today's European Zone third round tie.

Luna, 22, was in a manly mood, used the length of the court gradually to wear down Okker, who is 33.

Spain's No. 1, Jose Higueras, survived an injury scare to defeat the Dutchman 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. Higueras, who twisted his knee during a long rally, recovered sufficiently to outclass the Dutchman.

Australia and New Zealand quickly took control of their Eastern Zone semi-final tie in Hobart and Auckland. Australia led Japan 1-0 with the second singles suspended because of rain.

Spain's No. 2, Jose Higueras, survived an injury scare to defeat the Dutchman 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

and Onay Parus winning the opening stages.

When New Zealand went in, the West Indies feared fast bowlers were unable to match Hadlee's pace.

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No place for Connors

Boon West (Florida), Feb. 8.—The big names are here—Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Vitas Gerulaitis and Guillermo Vilas—but there is no Jimmy Connors.

The \$300,000 Grand Slam tennis tournament, got under way today without Connors, who failed to qualify because he did not win any of the so-called grand slam events—Wimbledon, the United States, Australian and French Opens.

Jimmy Connors, who has been in the tournament this year, said Borg, who was facing Vilas in an opening match, expected to be the winner of the tournament.

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Cricket

West Indies
tumble
to Hadlee's
speed

Dunedin, Feb. 8.—New Zealand followed up their victory over West Indies in the one-day international at Christchurch on Wednesday by outplaying them on the first day of the first Test here today. With the bowler, Richard Hadlee, taking five for 34 in 20 overs, West Indies were bowled out for 140 and the New Zealand opening batsmen, Wright and Edgar, scored 30 and 25 respectively in the first 20 minutes.

West Indies, without their leading batsman, Richards, who has returned home to Australia to rest his injured back, were in trouble from the start. Hadlee sent back Greenidge, Rowe and Kalichman in the space of 15 balls to have the touring team reeling at four for three. Haynes and the captain, Lloyd, led a recovery with a partnership of 68 for the fourth wicket until Lloyd, who had made 40, became Hadlee's fourth victim.

King and Parry, the only other batsmen to reach double figures, although Parry's total of 17, gave Haynes further support, but wickets continued to fall regularly. Haynes's brave defensive of Rafter and Wood was in vain when he was caught and bowled by the medium-pace bowler, Cairns, for 33. The West Indies were bowled out for 140 and the New Zealand opening batsmen, Wright and Edgar, scored 30 and 25 respectively in the first 20 minutes.

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Rugby Union

Gloucestershire will
revel in the mud

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

After the recent seasons in the north-west, the going at Vale of Lune for today's final of the county championship, sponsored by Thorn Electrical Industries, seems likely to be something different. With the rain, mud and less encouraging for the favourites, Lancashire, who could find it difficult if not impossible to attempt their usual expansive game.

Having carried all before them in their run through to the last round, the Lancashire pack now face their stiffest hurdle. With a front row comprising Blackwell, Mills and Sargeant (one England cap and two national reserves); with Fidler in the middle of the line-out and Hesford at the tighthead and Rafter on one flank, the Gloucestershire forwards look well capable of giving the home eight a difficult afternoon.

They also have a young lock, Pomphrey, who will be anxious to make his debut. The selection of his presence, and another flanker, Wood, who has been good enough to keep Pollard out of the side.

But it is not until an afternoon when good line-out possession is worth having, the presence of Rafter and Wood may cause Gloucestershire a rather short of inches at the back of the line.

It is more likely to be one of those days when the scrum halves spend most of their time—certainly in the early stages—putting the ball in front of their forwards.

Just how the Gloucestershire forwards perform such chores may depend on the platform they find in the opening half. If good, they may have the strength, the tactical expertise and the accurate left boot to produce an incisive attack.

Sadly, there is no Bond in the Lancashire centre. But his replacement, Phillips, is a sturdy, skilful and experienced player. It

remains to be seen whether Gloucestershire have gambled wisely in restoring Sorrell to stand-off after injury, on a diet of one-on-one game, and introducing Hignett in the centre after one outing at lower level. Hignett has played in once in his county in his England position of full back but it will be surprising if the Lancashire middle do not feel the effect of his tackling. With Moss playing in the centre, the Gloucestershire three-quarter, will not be short of pace.

Both sides, of course, have renowned goal kickers. O'Brien, having acquired over 90 of Lancashire's points in the championship, and Butler, at the latest tally, now standing with 2,214 points in all his first class matches, not so far short of Sam Dobie's world record.

It could be a day when one or other of these kickers holds the key. Lancashire ought to win, 2-1, so deny Gloucestershire the chance of extending their record number of championships wins to 11. But I fancy they may not do so for too much.

The last final involving the two sides was at Blundellsands in 1977. A year earlier, at Bristol, Lancashire were the victors by 17-12. The last time they met was in the semi-final round of 1977, at Vale of Lune, when David Davies kicked five penalty goals in a victory for the home side by 13-9. Lancashire went on to beat Gloucestershire 20-12 in the final.

Lancashire's O'Brien, who has scored 1,111 points in all his first class matches, is a goal-kicking machine. He has scored 1,111 points in all his first class matches.

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Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 461.4 down 1.5
FT Gilt 65.53 down 0.52

Sterling
\$2.2985 down 15 points
Index 72.8 down 0.1

Dollar
Index 85.1 up 0.2

Gold
\$377.5 unchanged

Money
3 month sterling 171-171
3 month Euro \$14-14
6 month Euro \$14-14

IN BRIEF

Imperial closer to success on hotel chain

Imperial Group's £630m (£275m) cash bid for Howard Johnson, the United States hotel and restaurant group, has moved significantly closer to success.

The group revealed in New York yesterday that a major legislative hurdle concerning liquor licences, which threatened to jeopardise the deal, has been overcome in 36 out of 40 states in which "Ho-Jo" operates.

Shareholders of both groups have already agreed the takeover, but the bid remains conditional on Imperial's United States lawyers securing changes in state laws which prevent liquor producers controlling retail outlets.

In London yesterday an Imperial spokesman refused to identify the four states yet to clear the deal.

£1.5m for new centre

The Leverhulme Trust is to provide £1.5m over five years to establish an Independent Centre for the Study of Technical Change. The project is also to be supported by the Science Research Council and the Social Science Research Council.

750 to lose jobs

Up to 750 people will lose their jobs when Platt Saco Lowell, the textile machinery division of Stone-Plant Industries closes its Oldham plant later this year. The company blames a world slump in demand for textile machinery.

Garment import quota

A quota of 115,000 garments has been imposed on imports into the United Kingdom of jackets and blazers from the Philippines during 1980. This follows a rapid rise in such imports, from 5,000 to 100,000 in the three years to 1979.

260,000 ton ship deal

Hitchi Shipbuilding and Engineering, Japan's main shipbuilder, has signed a contract with Chiyohai Carriers of Liberia to build the world's largest iron ore carrier—260,000 tons dead weight. The cost will be around 13,000m yen (about £23.5m).

Ecuador \$4m steady

A unit of the Hawker Siddeley Group has been awarded a \$4m contract for supplying and erecting electrical substations and transmission line structures in Ecuador. The award, by Empresa Electrica el Oro was made to the high voltage division of Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering.

Computer growth

Expenditure on computing services in Western Europe will match that of the United States by 1983 if the present 15 per cent growth continues, according to the European Computing Services Association. The Western European total for 1978 was \$5,700m (about £2,500m).

ARTHUR GUINNESS

Chairman told the annual meeting that while economic circumstances have affected group operating companies in varying ways, nevertheless, the general trend in sales has continued to be upward.

CBI chief gives warning over hasty legislation against unions

Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

A warning against hasty industrial relations legislation was issued by Sir John Methven, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday. "We could have a disaster on our hands if we try to pass legislation in the present frenzied atmosphere to put hasty legislation on the statute book without proper consultation," Sir John told the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

An attempt to cool his members' growing anger over secondary disruption in the steel strike, Sir John Methven said that industrialists should seek improvements as much through their own actions as through legislation. "Our job is to communicate as we have never done before," he said.

Pressure is growing from militants within the CBI for it to toughen its official representations to the Government's Employment Bill.

The CBI's official policy formulated during an unusually lengthy meeting of its grand council in December is that, apart from comparatively minor changes, it supports the Bill for the time being. The support, however, was conditional on an attempt being made for stronger measures on trade union immunities and secondary picketing at a later date.

Members voted down their officers' recommendation for a moderate approach to industrial relations legislation by a narrow majority at the national council last November.

Since then, as a result of the steel strike and courts' decisions on secondary industrial action, the dispute has become more vociferous in pressing for stronger legislation.

Sir John Methven has also urged the need for speedy reform but he said that "legislation will only touch the tip of the iceberg".

Referring to the public opinion poll carried out by The Times last month, he said that most people are in favour of legislation to curb union powers, and the unions should accept and not fight this limited change.

With the private steelmakers going out of action industrialists are expected to start suffering serious shortages of components within the next few weeks.

But no direct pressure has been exerted on the British Steel Corporation for a settlement.

The industrialists are, however, showing increasing frustration over secondary industrial action in general after three industry-wide strikes in the last year.

This was forcefully expressed by Sir Raymond Penneck, the CBI's president-designate, and chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, last week when he said that companies who manage to perform well were in danger of being "sucked into the mire and reduced to the level of the lowest".

The fact that manufacturers have coped with the present dispute so much better than expected was "a sad reflection on the practice they had experienced recently of preparing for strikes and learning to live with them."

Sir John Methven has also been speaking out against union actions in the last few weeks. At the same time as urging a moderate stance, he too expressed impatience with the current situation yesterday.

"There comes a time when we have to say enough is enough," he said, "and that time has now been reached".

Referring to criticisms about earlier hawkish remarks, Sir John said that the time had come when "we can no longer stand idly by, watching the United Kingdom torn apart by strike action; when we can no longer watch our opportunities, in fact, the future of British business, destroyed as strike follows strike".

A great many CBI members have strong feelings against compulsory strike action. Sir John reflected these yesterday when he said: "We've heard a lot in the last week about the unions protecting their right to strike."

But what about respecting the equal right of their members to work? If we're going to have freedom and democracy, let's really have it. Why cannot workers not directly involved in a strike have the option of not joining the strike if they so wish?"

He asked whether it was really in the interests of union members to jeopardise their jobs, those of other workers and to try and bring British industry to its knees.

GEC raises Decca bid to £100m

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
General Electric Company

Decca yesterday with an offer which could be worth more than £100m. Rascal's response was to hold its position over the weekend, with a statement saying it was considering a further offer, and it will decide on Monday whether to withdraw or make a further counter bid.

It is less than a year since the battle has reached its final stages. Neither GEC nor Rascal will want to pay much more than this for Decca, which underlined its problems yesterday by disclosing that its borrowings have risen from £51m to £66m at the end of last year.

Whatever the Rascal board decides, however, the whole issue could be thrown back into the melting pot if Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, decides to recommend to Mr John Nott, Secretary of Trade, that there should be a monopolies investigation.

Any reference would be up to Mr Nott, though GEC seemed to be going out of its way yesterday to remind Whitehall that its long-range philosophy

is to demerge so as to give added motivation to its managers and employees.

Mr Nott's department has a small working party looking into the tax problems now associated with selling off companies. Under present rules any proceeds of such having off given back to shareholders are treated as distributable income and taxed as such.

If the Government, which seems sympathetic to the idea, moves to change the rules, GEC has outlined plans to have off some of its major divisions as separate quoted companies, although control would remain at least at first, with GEC as a holding company.

Thus, Decca, if it were to be absorbed by GEC, could eventually re-emerge as part of a separately quoted Marconi/Decca electronics concern.

Yesterday's bid was GEC's second offer at £91.3m, Rascal having topped its first offer with an all-equity bid, which at last night's Rascal share price of 214p—down 3p on the day—was worth £91.5m.

GEC's new terms are 550p in cash for each Decca ordinary share and 450p in cash for each

"A" non-voting shares in Decca. This cash offer is worth £91.3m and thus matches Rascal's equity offer.

GEC's alternative, though, is more interesting and will test Rascal and its advisers over the weekend. It is 55p nominal of 81 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 1990-92 for each Decca ordinary and 480p of the same stock for each Decca "A". This puts a value on Decca of £97.5m, assuming the stock simply holds par in the market which no one, even Rascal, doubts that it will.

More significantly, when compared against similar stocks, there is a good case for suggesting GEC's stock could command a premium of as much as 10 per cent, in which case its offer is worth well over £100m.

Ironically, since GEC's huge cash resources were seen as the key to this bid when it first countered Rascal's initial £65m offer, a cash offer is probably not going to win at the end of the day, although the ability to offer cash as an alternative will be essential.

Rascal's second offer on Thursday demonstrated that while it still has the capacity to go further, it cannot offer much

more cash from its own resources. If it is to bid again it will have to arrange to underwrite its paper, and it will have to reach up to the terms offered under GEC's loan stock offer.

It could either increase its terms in equity, underwrite to match GEC's cash offer, or it could itself arrange a convertible offer.

If so, some Decca shareholders (especially those who fear a monopolies reference) will start selling in the market and both GEC and Rascal's brokers will go into action.

The ability to give control to one or the other could well end up in the hands of a single large holder of the voting capital—the Prudential Assurance, Kuwait Investment Office or Mrs S. Dimenstein, a Swiss resident, the wife of a Decca director and the daughter of the late Mr. Rosenkranz, a former Decca director.

Mrs Dimenstein is beneficially interested in about 8 per cent of Decca's voting capital. Decca said yesterday that it proposes selling to Mrs Dimenstein for £1.08m its interest in two jointly-owned companies.

In the video disc business.

£100m Tube Investments bid for US group likely

By Richard Allen

Tube Investments, the engineering conglomerate, is believed to be in the forefront of a secret £100m bid battle for an American-based packaging group.

The bid target is Craffe Packaging, a Chicago-based company with worldwide operations, whose family owners are understood to have been considering potential buyers for several months.

If such a move by TI went ahead, it would have immense significance for the British group, which is capitalised at only £175m.

Ranked against TI in the battle for control are thought to be at least 15 American corporations, including Exxon and Coca-Cola. Despite the strength of the opposition, however, it is thought that TI is favouring to succeed.

A TI director refused to comment last night other than to say that the British group has held a controlling interest for around 20 years in Crane's United Kingdom offshoot based at Slough.

However, it is understood that TI executives in certain divisions have been warned of heavy cutbacks in investment as the group struggles to raise the cash for a huge deal. With borrowings of more than £80m representing 25 per cent of the group's funds at the last balance sheet date, TI would be severely pushed to finance such a deal entirely through borrowings.

The British group has been under pressure at home as a result of the engineering dispute. Next month it is due to announce full year results, which market analysts expect to be as much as £30m below the previous pre-tax total of £20m.

Last year the group reported a profits fall from £35m to £30.4m at the interim stage, and in October gave a warning that the engineering strike had cost £20m. The group has, however, been raising cash from an emergency sale of plant and equipment, most significantly £9m last December through the sale of its half-share in a joint venture with the General Electric Company of America.

There were no senior executives available at Crane's headquarters in Chicago yesterday, but an emergency meeting at the company's London office was held where all holding discussions in a "secret retreat".

The family owners of the American group are thought to be keen on selling out and so have invited secret tenders from interested parties. Mr Markazi, the group's chairman, is understood to be handling negotiations.

Although Schroders is TI's merchant bank, representative reports from America suggest that the New York office of County Bank is also involved in secret negotiations. A spokesman there last night denied that County Bank was acting in any way for Tube Investments but refused to confirm or deny whether it had any involvement in talks concerning Crane.

However, County Bank is known to be involved in a deal concerning a British group worth more than £200m (£87m).

Shell exploration chief to join BNOC board

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Mr Malcolm Ford, deputy managing director of Shell UK Exploration and Production, is to join the board of the state-owned British National Oil Corporation.

Mr Ford, who is in his 50s, will be the most senior private sector oil man to have joined the national concern so far.

An announcement confirming his appointment is expected early next week. It will have added significance because it will come just before the expected government statement on bringing private capital into the exploration and production side of the corporation.

Having served abroad for many years, Mr Ford qualifies for early retirement from Shell, which he joined in 1952.

He is also one of the few vice-presidents of the multinational oil companies who are still only working for BNOC part-time, and may provide a chief executive for the North Sea company which is expected to be floated by the Government.

Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, has told Parliament that he intends to create a new North Sea company out of BNOC while retaining the trading activities,

became vice-chairman and deputy managing director in 1972.

He became director of operations for Shell UK in Aberdeen in November 1977 and deputy managing director of exploration and production in April 1978.

He thus brings expertise at the highest level in North Sea operations to the highly respected BNOC team. It is understood he will take responsibility from Mr Ronald Utiger, the chairman, for the development work on the BNOC's fleet of offshore oil rigs.

Mr Utiger was appointed temporary chairman of BNOC after the retirement of Lord Keston while the Conservative Government decided on the future of the corporation and a permanent successor was found.

The appointment of Mr Ford will take some of the day-to-day burden from Mr Utiger, who is still only working for BNOC part-time, and may provide a chief executive for the North Sea company which is expected to be floated by the Government.

Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, has told Parliament that he intends to create a new North Sea company out of BNOC while retaining the trading activities,

which guarantees the nation's access to North Sea crude in the state's hands. Part of the new company is to be floated, but the exact details are still being worked out.

BNOC is again trying to fix a level for North Sea oil prices after the rises announced last weekend by North African producers. Nigeria, whose prices has followed closely, has raised the price of its oil from \$30 to \$34 a barrel. North Sea crude is priced at \$28.75.

This price will rise from the beginning of February, BNOC has said but it has invited producer companies in the North Sea to suggest what the new price should be before making a decision.



Mr Malcolm Ford: expertise in North Sea operations.

Expenditure surveys criticized

By Caroline Atkinson

The Government's spending White Paper, published last month, will probably contain less detail than has been given in the past. The Government believes in decentralising public spending decisions where possible but is nevertheless concerned about overall totals. However, the Treasury is not expected to give great detail what will happen to individual components of spending programmes in the later years covered by the White Paper.

A criticism in the latest public spending round has shifted from "bottom up" planning, where spending totals are built up from the individual elements in the programmes, to "top down" planning.

At a conference held yesterday to discuss public spending control there was much criticism of the way the public ex-

pense survey committee (PESC) system of medium-term planning, which has been in place since 1964, is being replaced by the Royal Institute of Public Administration, said it led to consistent overspending, before the introduction of cash limits in the mid-1970s.

There was also criticism of the workings of cash limits and the tendency of politicians to use them as a "back-door way" of curbing the volume of spending.

However, the present Government has been too busy cutting spending since it took office to pay much attention yet to ways of changing the system.

Spending will still be presented in the White Paper, in terms of prices in autumn 1978 for spending on goods and services, and of 1979-80 for social security and other transfer payments.

The survey committee's system of controlling public spending has contributed to a loss of control, it was generally agreed, because the medium-term plans which resulted from it were based on over-ambitious growth targets and took too much account of domestic production.

The present Government has become worried about the effect of the relative price effect on spending in the period to 1983-84 which will be covered by the White Paper.

The relative price effect is a measure of the relative movement of costs in the public and private sectors. If public sector wages rise more than in the private sector, or if wages in the economy as a whole rise more than other costs, public spending tends to rise as a proportion of gross domestic product.

The present Government has become worried about the effect of the relative price effect on spending in the period to 1983-84 which will be covered by the White Paper.

Both Mr Schmidt and the French President know that the EMS is unpopular in their own countries, and their decision means that it should now be less of an issue ahead of the German general election this autumn, and the elections in France in the spring of 1981.

Furthermore, the work carried out so far by the EEC

UK blamed for delay over monetary fund

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Feb 8

Britain's failure to participate in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, which was advanced as one of the reasons for the decision by France and West Germany not to press for the planned European Monetary Fund to be set up by the target date of March 1981.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France agreed earlier this week in Paris that the second phase of the EMS, which was due to start with the setting-up of the fund, need not now go ahead on schedule, despite a commitment to this effect at the EEC summit in Dublin at the end of November last year.

Britain's position as a half-member of the EMS is seen as incompatible with the Community moving into its second stage of development. But it is also admitted that there are other reasons for France and Germany to delay action until next year.

Both Mr Schmidt and the French President know that the EMS is unpopular in their own countries, and their decision means that it should now be less of an issue ahead of the German general election this autumn, and the elections in France in the spring of 1981.

Furthermore, the work carried out so far by the EEC

monetary committee and EEC central banks has produced more questions than answers, because setting up the fund necessarily involves delicate issues of sovereignty and institutional competence over monetary affairs.

On a practical level, any political agreement in the EEC on the second stage is bound to be followed by delays in setting legislation through national parliaments, so the target of March 1981, was probably unrealistic anyway.

The news that France and Germany have decided to ease the pressure was received badly in the European Commission, which was apparently distressed that the future of the EMS is again being dictated by major EEC powers at a bilateral level.

Although Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission President, met Herr Schmidt shortly before the French-German consultations in Paris this week, he appears to have been given no indication as to German thinking on the negotiations towards the second phase of the EMS.

It was stressed in Brussels today that work on the second stage would continue at the level of the European Monetary Committee, and in other expert bodies. But without the explicit backing of the French and German governments, a major impulse for the further development has undoubtedly been lost for the time being.

Whether the CDA would have to explore the possibility of cash or loan backing within the movement, which includes the Co-operative Bank, remains to be seen. But Sir Keith's word to the CDA was that it was expected to become self-supporting by charging for its services, or by gaining support by the co-operative movement.

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Revision of steel trigger prices urged

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Europe's steel producers are expected to urge the United States to revise its trigger price mechanism for controlling imports in talks later this month.

Mr Reuben Askew, a United States trade envoy, is due in Brussels later this month for talks with the EEC Commission against the background of American steelmakers filing anti-dumping suits against European companies.

US Steel claims that 8 million tonnes of steel being dumped in America and the company has prepared eight suits seven of which were filed this week.

Yesterday Eurofer, the West European Steel Producers Association, claimed that it did not believe the American companies would be able to prove the dumping claims.

Eurofer would like to see the present American trigger price system revised rather than a quota system being introduced

to cover steel imports. The trigger mechanism is calculated on the basis of Japanese production costs—the world's most efficient steel producer—and imports from other sources are limited to those prices.

But the Europeans believe that the trigger price is now set at a level which can be underpinned by American steelmakers. Eurofer claims that the way the system is being operated violates the original intention.

This could present problems for the CDA even though it is already beginning to earn money through consultancy fees and some publications.

Working groups which looked at the CDA's prospects before legislation was passed felt the agency could not be expected to be self-supporting within the first two or three years, but it now looks as if a break-even point could be further away than that.

One suggestion is that, given the present cash aid is running at £300,000 a year, by the end of the year it should be below a third of that figure. But the CDA spent less than £300,000 last year.

There could be two encouraging factors. Sir Keith made it clear that he regarded industrial cooperatives as a desirable expression of private enterprise, although he added

the proviso that they should not be subsidised out of public funds.

He wished the CDA well in its work and said it was up to the working groups to do a worthwhile job that could not satisfactorily be done otherwise.

This is what the CDA believes it will be able to show, now that the work is gaining momentum. In the past year its team of 20, including four specialists, has dealt with more than 100 business problems thrown up by cooperatives.

The CDA's steady growth of more than 100 industrial cooperatives in the United Kingdom and there are probably about 200 in all, ranging from groups of more than 200 people to others of as many as 25 people, according to Mr Lawrence.

This is without taking into

Further cash grants not automatic Sir Keith Joseph says

Quango to aid cooperatives gets a reprieve

The Co-operative Development Agency (CDA), the one-year-old advisory body for all types of cooperatives, has been cleared for a further two years work after scrutiny by the Government's review of "quangos".

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has however warned the CDA it will not automatically get further cash once the £300,000 already voted by Parliament is finished.

Under the CDA Act of 1978, passed under the Labour Government, with tacit Conservative support, another £600,000 could be made available to the CDA provided there is House of Commons approval.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Bonds

Choosing the right time to switch

Private investors tend to leave their money, once invested, to ferment until such times as they need it. But single premium bonds offer investors opportunities to switch their money from one investment market to another relatively easily.

The majority of insurance companies operate a range of funds to which bonds can be linked. These usually include those invested in property, equities, gilts, deposit investments where the capital value is guaranteed not to fall, or a mixture under the banner of a managed bond.

But investors do not make use of these switching opportunities. Insurance companies report that a very small number of bondholders—usually less than 5 per cent—actually move their funds.

These are "hard core" investors who switch their bonds regularly on the advice of insurance brokers who specialise in this particular field.

Usually, however, the bondholder gets little advice about when and where to switch. Insurance companies shy away from recommending such moves on the basis that this could cause them liquidity problems. They also say that as each bondholder's circumstances are different any general switching advice would not be of great benefit.

But they do issue bulletins giving their general views on investment markets for insurance brokers. Unfortunately,

these do not always reach investors who have bought bonds directly from the company rather than through an intermediary; it is these investors who could find them useful indicators if switching is contemplated.

The advantage of switching bonds from one internal fund to another as opposed to switching a portfolio from, say, gilts to equities, are two-fold. First, the cost is much lower. Life offices dispense with their initial charges on these occasions, and make a charge which varies between 0.25 per cent and 1 per cent of the money switched. Secondly, the tax position remains unaltered.

One point to bear in mind is that some offices allow one to switch part of an investment while others insist that all or none moves. So take out a series of bonds rather than one large one to avoid this problem. The minimum most offices permit you to switch is a sum equal to the minimum investment, usually £500 or £1,000.

Although insurance companies do not want to encourage frequent switching for its own sake some consider that investors do not make the most of these facilities. Performance tables show there is a good case for switching at certain times to consolidate capital gains in a market which has spent its growth for the time being.

For example, one could at the moment argue a switch from property bonds, which have

risen 30-40 per cent in the last two years, to the gilt funds which are expected to do better this year. But beware of getting the timing wrong. You could end up worse off at the end of the day than if you held on to one particular bond.

A managed fund investing in properties, equities and fixed interest may be the answer for those who do not want to make these investment decisions. But they have not turned out to be the promised investment vehicles they were originally hailed to be in the early seventies.

Investment managers have found that they cannot switch the portfolio from one investment sector to another at the drop of a hat. Changing the mix is a gradual process that can take months and is usually achieved by directing new money into the chosen sector rather than actively switching existing investments.

Switching is all very well but first and foremost you need to start off on the right foot. Just how well any particular bond does depends on the life office managing the underlying portfolio. Unfortunately, you cannot pick and choose between life offices once your money is invested without incurring initial charges on the funds, usually 5 per cent or affecting your tax position if you pay at the higher rates.

Sylvia Morris

Insurance



Bonham's director Mr Leslie Gillham inspecting items in a private collection for valuation.

Valuing your possessions...

Even without a windfall bequest most people over the years build up a modest collection of, perhaps, medals, antiques, little jewelry, a print or painting or two, some silver and countless items of bric-a-brac which may or may not be worth something. But how many people really know the value of these particular contents of their homes?

Every once in a while it is useful to have the more important possessions properly valued and this is certainly the case after periods of extreme inflation like the late seventies, when the value of antiques, fine arts and other collectables were pulled up dramatically, as investors fled from cash and conventional investments.

I went to a Knightsbridge auctioneer to find out about their valuation service, launched some four years ago.

Bonhams does some 700 valuations a year both for

insurance and probate. Unlike some of its rivals it charges a different fee depending on what the valuation is for: this reflects the fact that probate valuation, effectively the price of a forced sale, is always lower than the insurance value, based on replacement cost—which, of course, includes the retailer's mark-up.

Mr Leslie Gillham, the director in charge of valuations, used to be able to spend more time in the field than he can now. Normally, within three weeks of an initial inquiry (a week if it is a probate case) one of his four valuers will be round to spend a day estimating the value of a house's contents.

If the owner indicates that they are spending a fortune on the sale of the specialists from the saleroom will accompany the valuer.

Although Bonhams will value the entire contents of a house

from the junk in the attic to the gardening gear in the shed, most people ask for a selective valuation. Mr Gillham reckons that his fee might be an expensive alternative to rule of thumb judgment about the replacement value of a double bed, for instance, but the value of the items valued through Bonhams within the next twelve months, then 50 per cent of the fee is refunded.

Bonhams charge 11 per cent on the first £10,000 (2 per cent up to £5,000 for probate purposes), 1 per cent on the next £10,000 (£20,000 probate) and 1 per cent on the rest. Christie's and Sotheby's charge the same at the bottom end of the scale, but the next bracket at 1 per cent rises to £10,000 before the lower fees become operative.

Margaret Stone

...and your house

The insurers' keen interest in making sure that householders are fully insured is not altruistic. After all, a house is seldom completely burnt out and there are limits to the amount most thieves can take away with them.

The truth is that the higher the insured value, the greater is the premium which has to be paid. And insurers want high insured values chiefly because this increases their premium income.

Building societies, because of the volume of business which they provide, have some bargaining power with insurance companies. As a result, they have been able to fend off most suggestions from companies to introduce penalties for under-insurance where they (the societies) make the insurance arrangements.

Anyway building societies have been active in increasing the insured values of the houses of their borrowers—which has, of course, increased their own commission income substantially.

However, insurers are growing increasingly tough with individual house owners. It is virtually standard practice for the insured value of a house to be linked to the Building Housing Cost Index. The value then increases each month in line with the increase in the index.

In the event of the total loss of a house, it is quite common for the index-linking to continue during the period of rebuilding—to take account of the increasing cost of the work. No extra premium is charged

for these monthly increases, but each year's premium at renewal is calculated on the index-linked figure applicable at that time. If a householder, on the other hand, has an index-linked, or insured for a figure which, clearly, is too low, a penalty is likely to be imposed when a claim is made.

The effect is to scale down any claim (however small it may be) in the same proportion as the under-insurance. Most of us have a fairly shrewd, if optimistic, idea of the market value of our houses. But the cost of rebuilding will not come readily to mind.

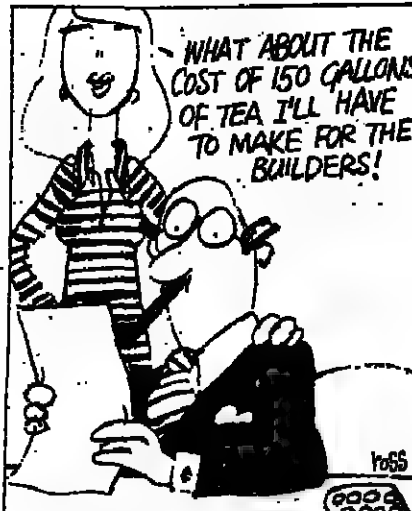
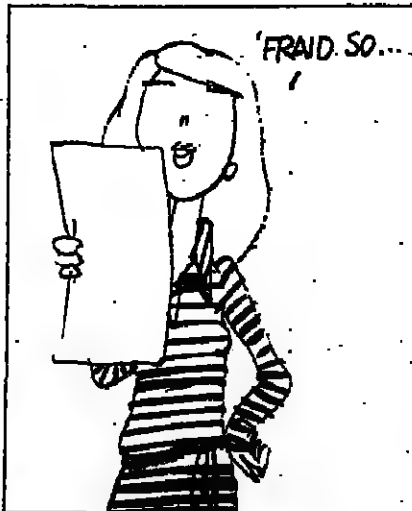
The alternative is either to spend a lot of money on a professional valuation or to measure the total floor area of the house and battle with a chart and explanatory information from which an approximate rebuilding cost can be calculated, depending on the type and size of the house, its location and the date when it was built—all this for the convenience of the insurers.

The Northern Star, on the other hand, simply needs to know the floor area of the house and will quote a premium, with no risk of under-insurance. With the scheme run by the Trustee Savings Banks, which is underwritten by the Prudential, you are quoted a minimum sum insured and premium. Claims will be paid up to that minimum figure or you can insure for a higher amount if you like.

These are simple and straightforward arrangements which other insurers, please, should copy.

John Drummond

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



BY ROSS

Grouse

Index-linked savings are rightly popular and the Government has acknowledged the importance to the elderly of the Index-Linked Retirement Issue of National Savings Certificates.

Initially, the maximum holding was £500, it was then increased to £700, and last November the maximum holding was enlarged further to £1,200.

But not everyone is aged 60 or 65—and the differential age qualification for men and women is itself another grouse. The Government let the younger ages into the

act by issuing a new index-linked Save-As-You-Earn contract. The maximum investment was fixed at £20 a month—and there it has stuck since 1975.

The terms of existing contracts cannot be rewritten but the Government has two options open to it which would redress the balance. It could permit investors to hold index-linked SAYE contracts to the value of, for example, £40 a month; or what amounts to the same thing in the long run, issue a second series of index-linked SAYE where the maximum holding is higher.

Taxing joint bank accounts

Bank deposit accounts raised their interest to 15 per cent recently. Could you tell me whether for the purposes of declaring that income to the tax authorities in the case of two people sharing a joint account the total capital in the account is deemed to be divided by two in equal parts? Also, when one of the partners dies does his share of the joint account pass automatically to the other without CTT? I have a joint deposit account with my daughter and would like her to become the owner of the total sum on my death. Would she have to pay CTT and, if so, on what proportion of the total joint capital in the account? (JD, Worcester Park.)

The income from your joint account is deemed to belong equally to you and your daughter, assuming there is no evidence that some other rate of sharing should apply, and you are each liable to income tax at your personal rates on one-half of the income.

Assuming you are tenants in common, as is the normal case, the half share belonging to the first to die will automatically pass to the other. That half share will, however, have to be included as part of the deceased's estate which, if the value is sufficiently high, will attract capital transfer tax. The present level of exemption is £25,000, but this is expected to be raised in the next budget.



Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma, Ronald Irving and Eric Brunet

me. Recently she has inherited some property in France upon the death of her father. This property gives rise to some income in France. We have been asked to fill up income tax forms for French tax authorities, giving also our gross income in England. Could you please tell us what we are required to do under the English income tax laws and if we have to declare this property in England? (AR, Chatham.)

As your wife is resident in the United Kingdom but domiciled abroad you will be liable to United Kingdom tax on the income arising in France in so far as it is remitted to this country. Such income as is remitted should therefore appear in the annual tax return. Also, the fact of the inherited property should be stated in the "chargeable assets acquired" section of the form, because if it should be sold in due course and the proceeds remitted to this country, the gain will be liable to capital gains tax.

After taking out a 25-year "with profits" endowment policy three years ago, at the age of 18, it would not seem that this is an expensive way of paying for a mortgage. I work as a civil servant. Would it be a better way of saving to cash it in a building society account? (RL, Guildford.)

Are we right in thinking that you have not yet obtained a mortgage? If this is so, a life policy is unlikely to be much help at this stage. It will not, for instance, help you to obtain a mortgage in the future and probably you will have to cash it in (probably getting a poor return) to meet the deposit on the house. Although, therefore, you will lose, it can be best to cash in now and to invest with a building society, which will be of some help in obtaining a mortgage.

Pre-Budget taxation

Are you a candidate for this election?

HOW WIFE'S EARNINGS ELECTION WORKS			
In 1979-80, Mr Smith will earn £15,000 after deducting his allowable charges on income such as pension contributions, mortgage interest, etc. Mrs Smith earns £5,000 in the same year and has investment income of £2,000.			
Before the election			
Earnings	Mr Smith £15,000	Mrs Smith £5,000	
Investment income	—	2,000	
	15,000	7,000	
Add: Wife's Income		7,000	
		22,000	
Allowances			
Higher Personal Allowance	£1,165		
Wife's Earnings Allowance	£1,165	2,980	
Taxable Amount		£19,020	
Income Tax Payable			
£1,500 @ 25%		375	
£8,500 @ 30%		2,550	
£2,000 @ 40%		800	
£3,000 @ 45%		1,350	
£4,020 @ 50%		2,010	
		£7,085	
After the election			
Earnings	Mr Smith £15,000	Mrs Smith £5,000	
Investment income (taxed on husband)	2,000	—	
	17,000	5,000	
Allowances			
Single Personal Allowance	1,165	1,165	
Taxable Amount	15,835	3,835	
Income Tax Payable			
£750 @ 25%	187.50	187.50	
£9,085 @ 30%	2,725.50	—	
£3,050 @ 40%	1,220.00	—	
£2,000 @ 45%	900.00	—	
£835 @ 50%	417.50	—	
	£5,530.00	£1,112.50	
The total tax payable after the election amounts to £6,643, which is a saving overall of £442.			

Most people put off dealing with their tax until the very last moment, but you should try to avoid the temptation to ignore that desk drawer full of jumbled receipts, dividend statements, broker's valuations and building society passbooks.

A little action before April 5 could save some unnecessary tax payments—by April 6 it will be too late.

A feature of the tax system which ought to be familiar to every married couple where both partners work is the wife's "earnings election". The income of a husband and wife is normally taxed together, but they can choose to have the wife's earnings assessed separately and this can be profitable if each person's income is high enough.

Do not confuse the wife's earnings election with the "separate assessment" provisions where a husband and wife each pay their own tax bill, but the overall level of tax paid is not changed. In contrast, the wife's earnings election affects the amount of personal tax relief and the levels at which the higher rate tax bands are charged.

Normally, the husband receives the higher married personal allowance (£1,165 in 1979-80) and, if his wife has earnings in her own right, she has an allowance for earned income at the same level as the single person's allowance (£1,165 in 1979-80).

The first £750 earned by each person in 1979-80 is then taxed at the lower rate band of 25 per cent. The next £8,500 of their joint income is then taxed together at the basic rate, at present 30 per cent.

However, by making the wife's earnings election, the earned income of both husband and wife is taxed as if each were a single person. The higher personal married allowance of £1,165 is withdrawn and the husband is entitled only to the single person's allowance of £1,165; the wife continues to have a personal allowance of £1,165, but in the form of single personal allowance rather than the wife's earnings relief.

As a result, the amount of

income subject to basic rate tax, after allowing for personal allowances and income subject to the lower band rate, would be increased from a potential £8,500 to a maximum of £18,500. Each person pays the basic rate income tax on the first £9,250 of taxable earned income and each is then taxed at the appropriate rate for each slice of income. Investment income, however, is still taxed jointly.

There are certain consequences of making a wife's earnings election which can be easily overlooked. Any deductions which are normally first set against one spouse's earnings cannot then be set against the other spouse's earnings.

If you are considering making an election retrospectively for 1978-79 do not forget that you will lose life assurance relief on policies which were taken out by the wife on the husband's life or vice-versa.

The decision whether or not to elect for the wife's earnings to be taxed separately depends on the level of each person's earnings, as well as other circumstances. In principle however, it is worthwhile if the reduction in tax rates compensates for the lower levels of personal allowances.

Each calculation has to be made individually, but as a rule of thumb and assuming that you have only the normal personal allowances), an election may be worthwhile for 1979-80 where joint incomes amount to over £14,930 and each person's income amounts to at least £3,765. The equivalent figures for last year (1978-79) are a total income of £12,676, of which the wife's income should be at least £3,691.

A wife's earnings election can be made after the end of a tax year but you should make it no later than 12 months after the end of the year of assessment in question. For instance, you should make an election (or revoke an existing election) for the year 1978-79 before April 6, this year. Once an election has been made it will continue in force until it has been revoked. Both husband and wife must jointly make an election and there is a special Inland Revenue form for this purpose.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

INCOME TAX RELIEFS AND RATES 1978-79, 1979-80					
Single Personal and Wife's Earned Income		1978-79		1979-80	
Maximum Allowance		£ 985		£ 1,165	
Married Personal Allowance		1,535		1,815	
1978-79		1979-80			
Taxable Income £	Rate %	Cumulative Tax £	Taxable Income £	Rate %	Cumulative Tax £
750	25	187.50	750	25	187.50
8,000	33	2,580	10,000	30	2,962.50
9,000	40	2,980	12,000	40	3,762.50
10,000	45	3,430	15,000	45	5,112.50
11,000	50	3,930	20,000	50	7,612.50
12,000	55	4,755	25,000	55	10,362.50
14,000	60	5,655	Excess	60	
16,000	65	6,985			
18,500	70	8,705			
24,000	75	12,830			
Excess	83				
Use these tables to calculate whether to elect for wife's earnings to be taxed separately or not for 1978-79 and 1979-80.					

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Consumer protection

The party's over—are you satisfied with the goods?

You must have been to a Tupperware selling party or one of its subsequent variations, run by that friendly neighbour down the road. (If you haven't, you most certainly soon will, given the growth of this particular marketing method, which now turns over £200m a year).

But if later you have, a computer that pleasant neighbour and upstart relations between you? Do you feel after a party selling session that the social pressures there may have persuaded you into buying something you didn't want?

These and other problems associated with party selling—and other types of direct selling—a sector which accounts for more than 50 million purchases a year worth £300m according to the returns from members of the Direct Sales and Services Association (DSSA)—have caught the watchful eye of Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The upshot of this week was a revised code of practice agreed with the DSSA which believes it accounts for 85 per cent of the direct selling industry.

An Office of Fair Trading (OFT) study has established that the DSSA's existing code had achieved much success, measured by the small number of complaints. This first code was launched when the DSSA was set up in 1965 after the initial growth of party selling imported from the United States in 1960 by the Tupperware company. The code makes provision for plastic kitchenware and toys and is now a DSSA member and manufacturer in Britain.

The new code widens the protection for customers. The 29 members of the DSSA, whose products range from encyclopaedias and cosmetics to clothing, will now abide by procedures which should take any embarrassment out of problems that arise after a selling party.

Invitation cards to parties will make the sales purpose of the party clear. Party hostesses will be told of their rights and responsibilities and will be fully insured by the company involved. Orders placed at a party

will be subject to a cooling-off period, allowing for cancellation, of at least 14 days, although the DSSA says some of its members already give a longer period of grace. Deposits are refundable on cancellation.

When ordering customers must be given written details of where to send queries or complaints. That avoids having to complain to the hostess.

The DSSA continues its previous obligation to provide prompt conciliation in disputes between customer and company. Copies of the new code of practice should be available at any sales party.

The code also covers other direct selling that takes place in the home such as cosmetics and toiletries through local representatives of companies like Avon cosmetics. But the DSSA is not concerned with the mail order industry, which has its own code of practice already, and the growing flood of home improvement items.

DSSA members have to satisfy the association about training standards of sales personnel, must not mislead in advertised or promotional claims, and guarantee quality of merchandise without infringing customers' common law or statutory rights.

An obvious moral is to deal only with DSSA members where possible or look for any other organization that measures up to the DSSA criteria. In the North-west of England two trading standards centres are investigating complaints of switch-selling, with one series of cases concerning jewelry which when delivered did not appear to match up to the quality of items on show at selling parties.

Especially beware of pressure salesmen on the door-step who sell "bargain" items usually for cash and leave no details of where subsequent complaints should be sent.

Although there is a draft EEC directive under discussion which would drastically toughen the rules on all doorstep selling, legislation is still some way off.

The assault on householders by the home improvement companies, from double glazing and replacement windows to cavity wall insulation and sprayed-on treatments for outer walls, is being looked at by Mr Borrie. New codes of conduct are already under discussion in two sectors.

Derek Harris



Round-up

Credit cards • New funds

Now is the time to start cutting back your debt balances on the credit card companies—that is unless you have not already done so following the increase in card interest rates to a maximum of nearly 31 per cent at the end of last year.

The Prime Minister has warned that next month's Budget could well include new curbs on credit cards and hire purchases. Some buyers and lenders are worried that any new restrictions would include tougher repayment rules.

The credit card companies fear that the Government may revert to the rules that were abolished in Dennis Healey's 1978 budget. The rules required a minimum repayment of 15 per cent or 5 per cent—whichever was a sharp cutback in credit card use. This could mean £20 a month more on the average credit—now nearly £200—outstanding.

Stockbrokers Sheppards and Chase, in conjunction with insurance brokers Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne, is launching a unit linked annual pre-

mium policy, underwritten by Crown Life. After 10 years' investment, the policyholders can take a tax free cash sum or income from the plan.

A novel feature of the policy is that it can increase or decrease the annual premium—minimum £1,000—within the range of 125 per cent and 62.5 per cent from year to year provided the overall total at the end of the term is 10 times the initial premium, a device giving some flexibility in periods of stock market volatility.

Premiums will be linked to the new Rensley Fund, managed by Sheppards and Chase, which invests in gilts and equities.

Lloyds Bank at present managing £100m of unit trusts, is launching its first fund for four years. The Smaller Companies and Recovery Unit Trust will put 60 per cent of its portfolio in smaller companies with minimum market capitalization of £1m and the balance in high yielding shares with good recovery potential.

Minimum investment is £250

an 8th estimated gross yield is 5 per cent.

Hot on its heels comes the International Technology Trust due to see the light of day in a month's time while further trusts are planned for the autumn. Charges on the trust are an initial 5 per cent with an annual levy of 0.5 per cent.

The managers retain the right to increase the annual rate to 0.75 per cent for both existing and new unitholders after three months' notice.

The life assurance industry had a buoyant 1979: figures issued last week show new annual premium business of £695m, up 31 per cent, with unit-linked business accounting for £137m of the total compared with £87m in 1978. Single premium business showed a 20 per cent increase to £665m with sales of short-term guaranteed income bonds pushing up these sales by some £30m.

Anthony Gibbs has reorganised and renamed one of the trusts it took over from the old Piccadilly Group. The Capital Trust now goes under the name of UK Market Leaders trust.

Stock markets

Equities firm despite day of uncertainty

The stock market ended the day in a confused but generally firm condition yesterday as news items continued to sway market sentiment.

Equities ended off the top after some precautionary marking down as a result of the steel talks, and gilts were mostly steady, where changed.

Oil was the main feature of the day when after a fairly firm start they burst into life upon rumours that Saudi Arabia was planning to cut back on production because of the threat of supply outrunning demand.

Equities had begun the day on a confident note in the hope of a final settlement in the steel wage dispute, while eagerly awaiting GEC's latest salvo in the fight to gain control of Decca.

But by lunchtime the mood had changed on rumours that the steel talks had broken down. This was later confirmed and in no time prices were being marked lower in both equities and gilts.

By the time the threat of an all-out strike at BL was now looking very real and began to affect sentiment so that the market spent most of the afternoon continuing to drift lower.

The breakdown at the talks also took its toll of gilts. After a firm start they saw gains of up to 1/2, prices began to drift lower after some early selling.

Longs appeared to take the brunt of the falls, with losses of between 1/2 and 1/4 being registered at the close. But in shorts rises of a 1/4 were wiped out by profit taking and some

Operators are already wondering about Rascal's next move if the group is absorbed by GEC over Decca. Many think that Rascal will not go for the obvious targets, Ferranti or Plessey but for something smaller, such as Bournemouth Holdings. In a week the shares have put on 12p to 112p.

selling to leave most unchanged on the day.

The tone after hours slowly became firmer on the back of oil which had witnessed some heavy buying. One dealer described the trading as "chaotic" with business being conducted late into the evening.

In the event, the FT Index experienced a tippy tippy day when after being 3.0 up at midday it went on to fall by 3.6 at 3 pm, before closing only 1.5 off at 4614. A rise on the account of 9 points or 2 per cent.

Leading industrials were off the top after hours of selling, but jobbers described the position as being firm. Unilever was 4p lower at 456p, while falls of between 1p and 2p were noted in ICI at 355p, Fisons at 264p, Pilkington Bros at 236p and BAT's at 260p. Only Beecham, 1p higher at 128p, managed to resist the trend.

Oils were the dominant feature, helped after hours by some heavy overseas buying which resulted in some stable rises. Among the majors BP climbed 10p in the old 394p, and 10p in the new, at 398p, while Shell leapt 16p to 374p, closely fol-

lowed by Ultramar's 17p rise to 465p.

Second liners, especially those with North Sea interests, were wanted with Siebens expanding 45p to 755p, Imperial Continental Gas 31p to 750p and Aram Energy 30p to 330p. Lasso made less progress than of late as the profit takers moved back, still managing a 3p rise to 505p which in turn helped Cawoods 16p to 192p as a result of its substantial stake in Lasso.

The battle of the giants in the electrical sector, which was building up to a crescendo, provided a lively time. GEC improved 3p to 374p following its latest bid for Decca, up 23p in the old at 573p and 22p in the "A" at 435p, which valued the group at £98m compared with Rascal's bid earlier in the week of £52m, shares of Rascal were still up to 101p while the bid for Decca edged ahead 2p to 306p.

Further speculative buying lifted Mairhead 12p to 218p on the hope that Tyco was planning to make a bid while Bamber's Stores dipped 10p to 85p. Equity turnover on February 7, was £153,916m (18,751 bargains), according to the Exchange. Telegraph, were, Lasso, Premier, GEC, Decca, GEC, Western Mining, ICI, BAT and Metal Box.

Latest results

Company	Profits	Earnings per share	Dividend	Pay date	Year's total
Int or Fin	0.11(0.32)	—	—	—	—
Govett Eurym Test (I)	0.057 (0.049)	4.88(4.14)	4.2(3.6)	28/3	4.2(3.6)
Greenbank Tax (F)	0.5(0.5)	5.2(11.0)	1.3(1.0)	9/4	2.6(2.0)
Wick & Mallison (F)	0.34(0.29)	3.75(3.3)	3.1(2.8)	31/3	—
Watkinson's (I)	1.87(1.25)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pre-tax profits. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Pre-tax revenue.

Textile losses slow Hirst & Mallinson

By Our Financial Staff

A slump in demand for textiles and near doubled interest charges lopped a third from full-year profits at Yorkshire-based group Hirst & Mallinson.

In the 53 weeks to November 3 last, the group made a pre-tax profit of £295,000 against £445,000 for the previous year. Turnover rose from £15.6m to £18.6m.

Group chairman Mr Michael Crompton admits that it was the textiles division which caused the problems. Over-stocked retailers in the United Kingdom left demand at very low levels, while the strength of the pound, coupled to inflation, hit export sales. In the year this division plunged into the red and the group is now taking steps to reduce its exposure to further losses.

Part of the production process has been shut down but Mr Crompton reports that as yet there is no sign of the

increase in volume that this division needs.

By contrast, the catering side had a better year on the back of increased sales of catering equipment overseas and the group has expanded its warehouse space to cope with the increase in demand.

In order to avoid any hiccups in production from the steel strike, Hirst increased its stocks at the end of last year and this has prevented the planned reduction in borrowings. At the end of last year interest charges rose from a previous £116,000 to £211,000 despite a £400,000 rights issue during the period.

The pharmaceutical side did not do as well as previously, with the price war biting into margins. However, the chairman reports that its profits have improved in the past four months.

The dividend has been increased by a third to 2.6p gross. The shares yesterday fell 3p to 30p where they traded on six times fully-taxed earnings and yield 12.3 per cent gross.

Profits leap at Amax

By Our Financial Staff

A huge leap in net earnings from £160k to \$365m (£159m) in 1979 has been recorded by Amax, the big United States natural resources group. Earnings per share rose from \$2.76 to \$6.44. This trend is expected to continue.

The company expects to invest \$3,000m during 1980, bringing total capital expenditure over the last 10 years to more than \$5,000m. Earnings from operations before tax were \$480m compared with \$264m in 1979.

Most of the profit increase

came from greater demand and higher prices for molybdenum, copper, lead, oil, natural gas and zinc, on which Amax is a major producer, the nickel division moved into profit after two years of losses.

The only two areas to show lower profits were coal and iron ore. Total sales increased to \$2,900m from \$1,700m.

Amax has formally agreed the terms of its bid for Rosario Resources, a United States, silver, base metal, and oil and gas producer. Amax currently holds about 37 per cent of Rosario and is offering 1,376,151 Amax shares for each Rosario share.

Speculation about bid as Delson is suspended

By Bryan Appleyard

Shares in Delson & Co, the Birmingham nuts and bolts manufacturer and distributor, were suspended yesterday "pending an announcement".

Speculation in the market surrounding the suspension centred on Mr Richard Cashmore, the managing director of private steel stockholder Barrow, who is believed to be a bidder for Delson's shares.

But Mr Cashmore is definitely not a bidder. However, on Tuesday he did write to about 25 major shareholders in Delson complaining about the company's performance.

His letter pointed out that the shares had underperformed the FT index since their flotation in 1966 and, in real terms, had declined in value by 75 per cent. He pointed out that the assets backing the 30p per share. The suspended price was 32p.

Last night Mr Cashmore said he had no intention of bidding for the whole company, and he had no idea why the shares should have been suspended. But he reaffirmed his intention of bringing up the issue's in his letter at the annual meeting on February 22.

Apart from Mr Cashmore the other major shareholders are the TTC Pension Trusts and Delson board which controls 44 per cent; and Glynwed, the engineering and steel stockholding group, with 7.6 per cent.

A Glynwed spokesman said last night that his company was definitely not bidding. At 32p the company is valued at £800,000. The recent full-year figures showed profits up from £102,000 to £143,000.

Mystery circulars baffle Reynolds

By Alison Mitchell

The Stock Exchange quotations department appears unable to trace the source of two mystery circulars which have fuelled speculation in Reynolds Diversified Corporation.

Although purporting to come from Reynolds—an Australian-based oil and gas concern whose shares are listed on the London stock exchange under Rule 163(E)—the president, Mr P. Briggs, yesterday denied any knowledge of them.

In a letter to the Stock Exchange Mr Briggs said: "We have no knowledge whatsoever of the contents of these circulars and they were certainly not authorized by any member of the company."

The first of the notices suggested that a concern, thought to be Swiss-based, had been given the option to purchase 25 million shares in Reynolds from the directors at 4p—the shares are currently trading at 21p—and a further option on another 25m shares.

However, a few weeks later

another announcement reported that this offer had been withdrawn.

Both circulars were ostensibly signed by Reynolds but were not printed on the company's headed paper.

Following inquiries by the Stock Exchange, Reynolds put out a denial, but the light of the contents of the circulars and other speculation that the group is involved in take-over negotiations.

Although Reynolds was initially registered in Nevada it is now based in Perth, Australia. Its shares are still traded over-the-counter in New York.

The company is currently exploring off-shore in Australia with American oil group Sunoco. It is also involved in negotiations with other Australian mineral exploration groups in relation to gold mining prospects in Kalgoorlie.

In view of the recent interest in the shares, Mr Briggs promised to keep the Stock Exchange fully informed on developments.

De La Rue's US venture

By Our Financial Staff

Bank note printer De La Rue is to set up a jointly-owned company in America to develop and sell laser plate-making systems.

Through its wholly-owned subsidiary Cardiac Electronics De La Rue will be joining forces with Logotronics Inc of Springfield, Virginia, to set up Logoscan Systems Inc.

Both Cardfield and Logoscan will hold 50 per cent of the shares in the new company which will have an initial capital of \$3m (£1.3m). Cardfield will satisfy its share of the capital by the introduction of cash into the new com-

pany, which is expected to start trading at the beginning of April.

Crosfield is the current glamour division of De La Rue following the development of a new computer-controlled printing system called Lasergrave. Profits for the current year at Crosfield are expected to touch £7.5m, against a previous £5m and could reach £10m by 1981.

De La Rue is confident that the Lasergrave, which uses a digital computer to take over the colour separation work previously done manually, is at least two years ahead of its rivals.

Unit trust performance

GROWTH	A	B
FT All Shares Index	115.8	168.8
FT Ind Ord Index	101.2	132.2
FT Ind Growth	101.2	132.2
M & G/Magnum	138.0	193.8
GT Capital	137.8	201.6
Schlesinger Spec Sits	136.0	198.8
M & G/Con Growth	135.7	198.8
Britisha Professional	128.9	216.2
Anthony Gibbs Private	128.0	185.5
Britisha Cap Growth	127.4	200.3
M & G/Recovery	127.4	200.3
Perpetual Wagg/Cap	126.4	180.3
Perpetual Group Growth	124.3	255.5
Bishopsgate Prog	122.7	193.2
Britisha Professional	122.6	185.4
Britisha Cap Growth	120.6	171.7
Anthony Gibbs Growth	119.5	188.6
Bridge Capital	119.4	190.0
Schlesinger Wagg/Cap	118.4	184.0
Yindall Growth	118.4	184.0
Franklington Capital	118.4	184.0
Barclays/Unit Accum	118.4	184.0
M & G/Comp Growth	117.8	163.6
Manville Growth	117.8	163.6
Baring Bros Stratton	117.7	156.0
North West Capital	117.5	148.9
Royal Trust Capital	116.6	138.8
Arbuthnot Capital	116.3	138.8
TSB Growth	116.2	139.6
Friends Prov Units	115.5	173.6
NPI Growth	115.5	173.6
Target Growth	115.6	154.2
Target Growth	115.6	154.2
Seab Capital	115.3	158.8
Equity and Law	115.3	158.8
A-Hamro/Unit Accum	115.1	129.2
Anthony Gibbs Accum	115.1	129.2
Prov Life/Profit	114.7	170.4
Yindall/Capital	113.6	166.0
Barclays/Unit Accum	113.0	147.8
Anthony Gibbs Tech	113.0	139.5
Pearl Growth	112.3	155.7
Britisha Assets	111.6	132.9
FT Saver/Capital	111.6	132.9
Stewart Brit Capital	110.7	189.4
North Comm/Capital	110.0	151.5
Arbuthnot Growth	109.7	174.1
Gartmore British	109.7	174.1
T & G/Vanguard Growth	107.6	154.0
Carlton	106.7	146.8
New Court Equity	106.6	138.0
Gartmore Unit Acc	106.6	138.0
Schlesinger Nil Yield	106.6	138.0
Wider Growth	106.6	138.0
Wider Growth	106.6	138.0
Midland Drayton Cap	106.0	131.0
Abbey/Capital	105.5	157.8
TSB/Scott	105.5	157.8
TSB/Scott	105.5	157.8
A-Hamro O'geas Earn	102.4	139.1
Ultramar Growth	102.1	113.8
T & G/Marlbrough	102.1	113.8
Arbuthnot Growth	98.7	126.9
S & P/Capital	97.6	186.6
S & P/Capital	97.6	186.6
Lon Wall/Spec Sits	95.2	131.8
Lon Wall/Spec Sits	95.2	131.8
Cosmopolitan Growth	90.5	131.8

Arbuthnot Fin & Prop	124.6	167.8
Target/Financial	123.2	174.1
Arbuthnot Financial	121.2	184.0
London Wall/Finance	120.7	162.1
James Finlay Fin Test	117.5	169.2
Britisha Fin Secs	116.8	169.2
M & G/Fin	113.8	157.9
North West/Financial	110.0	137.6
Britisha Unit Fin Inv	109.0	146.7
S & P/Fin	107.8	140.7
Arbuthnot Fin Test	106.9	140.7
Oceanic/Fin Trust	105.9	141.2
Target/Fin Trust	105.9	141.2
S & P/Scott	105.9	141.2
Abbey/Gilts & Fin Inv	105.5	140.7
S & P/Financial	103.7	133.4
Target/Preference	102.7	146.1
Target/Gilt	102.3	117.4
Kleinwort Benson Fils	102.3	132.8
Abbey/Fin Trust	102.3	132.8
Cap	101.8	160.1
Arbuthnot Gilts & Fin Inv	101.8	160.1
Tyndall/Preference	100.6	158.8
Fixed Interest	99.7	105.7
Schlesinger Fin & Gilts	99.7	105.7
Arbuthnot Preference	96.7	117.1

Scitry Sel Univer GR	115.6	155.1
Target/Financial	115.6	149.9
Arbuthnot Financial	115.6	149.9
London Wall/Finance	115.6	149.9
James Finlay Fin Test	115.6	149.9
Britisha Fin Secs	115.6	149.9
M & G/Fin	115.6	149.9
North West/Financial	115.6	149.9
Britisha Unit Fin Inv	115.6	149.9
S & P/Fin	115.6	149.9
Arbuthnot Fin Test	115.6	149.9
Oceanic/Fin Trust	115.6	149.9
Target/Fin Trust	115.6	149.9
S & P/Scott	115.6	149.9
Abbey/Gilts & Fin Inv	115.6	149.9
S & P/Financial	115.6	149.9

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

AEG uses capital plan to cover 1979 loss

Frankfurt.—AEG-Telefunken has spent most of the DM930m (about £232m) generated by its capital reorganization and the rest will be used this year, the finance director, Herr Horst Brandt said.

The banks involved paid the DM930m into AEG accounts two days after an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on January 13 agreed a consolidation plan involving capital reorganization.

Herr Brandt said the largest portion of the DM930m would be used to cover the 1979 operating loss of DM430m.

West German Company Law allows AEG to use its 1980 capital reorganization to eliminate losses on the 1979 balance sheet, while under tax law the company will be able to use its total 1979 balance sheet loss of about DM1,230m for tax purposes for the next five years.

Herr Brandt said he will use tax savings gained to build up declared reserves.—Reuter.

Burmeister and Wain

Copenhagen.—The controversial Danish business tycoon Mr. Jan Bonde Nielsen has rejected the advice of the board of the Burmeister and Wain shipbuilding and diesel engineering company to sell his shares and disengage from the group.

Instead, he will fight back by calling a general meeting at which he would use his majority

Wall Street

New York, Feb. 8.—Stocks advanced in heavy trading this morning as oil and gas issues continued to gain on speculation about a major gas find.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose three-and-one-half points and advanced paced declines six-to-five.

Among the early gainers, Gulf Oil rose one to 42, and Union Pacific 3 to 32.10. Dow Chemical and Indiana Standard had yet to trade. All four companies have a stake in the Kawneer Federal No. 1 well in Wyoming, the subject of recent market speculation about a gas find.

February 7: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 3.66 points up at 885.39.

Silver limit up

New York, Feb. 8.—Commodity prices were big limit up in silver morning under heavy trading. The price of silver rose to 10.10, a record high, after a long decline in the late 1970s.

The silver price was up 10.10, a record high, after a long decline in the late 1970s.

GOLD was steady, NY COMEX, Feb. 8, 1980, 329.00, up 0.25, 329.25, 329.50, 329.75, 330.00, 330.25, 330.50, 330.75, 331.00, 331.25, 331.50, 331.75, 332.00, 332.25, 332.50, 332.75, 333.00, 333.25, 333.50, 333.75, 334.00, 334.25, 334.50, 334.75, 335.00, 335.25, 335.50, 335.75, 336.00, 336.25, 336.50, 336.75, 337.00, 337.25, 337.50, 337.75, 338.00, 338.25, 338.50, 338.75, 339.00, 339.25, 339.50, 339.75, 340.00, 340.25, 340.50, 340.75, 341.00, 341.25, 341.50, 341.75, 342.00, 342.25, 342.50, 342.75, 343.00, 343.25, 343.50, 343.75, 344.00, 344.25, 344.50, 344.75, 345.00, 345.25, 345.50, 345.75, 346.00, 346.25, 346.50, 346.75, 347.00, 347.25, 347.50, 347.75, 348.00, 348.25, 348.50, 348.75, 349.00, 349.25, 349.50, 349.75, 350.00, 350.25, 350.50, 350.75, 351.00, 351.25, 351.50, 351.75, 352.00, 352.25, 352.50, 352.75, 353.00, 353.25, 353.50, 353.75, 354.00, 354.25, 354.50, 354.75, 355.00, 355.25, 355.50, 355.75, 356.00, 356.25, 356.50, 356.75, 357.00, 357.25, 357.50, 357.75, 358.00, 358.25, 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546.00, 546.25, 546.50, 546.75, 547.00, 547.25, 547.50, 547.75, 548.00, 548.25, 548.50, 548.75, 549.00, 549.25, 549.50, 549.75, 550.00, 550.25, 550.50, 550.75, 551.00, 551.25, 551.50, 551.75, 552.00, 552.25, 552.50, 552.75, 553.00, 553.25, 553.50, 553.75, 554.00, 554.25, 554.50, 554.75, 555.00, 555.25, 555.50, 555.75, 556.00, 556.25, 556.50, 556.75, 557.00, 557.25, 557.50, 557.75, 558.00, 558.25, 558.50, 558.75, 559.00, 559.25, 559.50, 559.75, 560.00, 560.25, 560.50, 560.75, 561.00, 561.25, 561.50, 561.75, 562.00, 562.25, 562.50, 562.75, 563.00, 563.25, 563.50, 563.75, 564.00, 564.25, 564.50, 564.75, 565.00, 565.25, 565.50, 565.75, 566.00, 566.25, 566.50, 566.75, 567.00, 567.25, 567.50, 567.75, 568.00, 568.25, 568.50, 568.75, 569.00, 569.25, 569.50, 569.75, 570.00, 570.25, 570.50, 570.75, 571.00, 571.25, 571.50, 571.75, 572.00, 572.25, 572.50, 572.75, 573.00, 573.25, 573.50, 573.75, 574.00, 574.25, 574.50, 574.75, 575.00, 575.25, 575.50, 575.75, 576.00, 576.25, 576.50, 576.75, 577.00, 577.25, 577.50, 577.75, 578.00, 578.25, 578.50, 578.75, 579.00, 579.25, 579.50, 579.75, 580.00, 580.25, 580.50, 580.75, 581.00, 581.25, 581.50, 581.75, 582.00, 582.25, 582.50, 582.75, 583.00, 583.25, 583.50, 583.75, 584.00, 584.25, 584.50, 584.75, 585.00, 585.25, 585.50, 585.75, 586.00, 586.25, 586.50, 586.75, 587.00, 587.25, 587.50, 587.75, 588.00, 588.25, 588.50, 588.75, 589.00, 589.25, 589.50, 589.75, 590.00, 590.25, 590.50, 590.75, 591.00, 591.25, 591.50, 591.75, 592.00, 592.25, 592.50, 592.75, 593.00, 593.25, 593.50, 593.75, 594.00, 594.25, 594.50, 594.75, 595.00, 595.25, 595.50, 595.75, 596.00, 596.25, 596.50, 596.75, 597.00, 597.25, 597.50, 597.75, 598.00, 598.25, 598.50, 598.75, 599.00, 599.25, 599.50, 599.75, 600.00, 600.25, 600.50, 600.75, 601.00, 601.25, 601.50, 601.75, 602.00, 602.25, 602.50, 602.75, 603.00, 603.25, 603.50, 603.75, 604.00, 604.25, 604.50, 604.75, 605.00, 605.25, 605.50, 605.75, 606.00, 606.25, 606.50, 606.75, 607.00, 607.25, 607.50, 607.75, 608.00, 608.25, 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639.75, 640.00, 640.25, 640.50, 640.75, 641.00, 641.25, 641.50, 641.75, 642.00, 642.25, 642.50, 642.75, 643.00, 643.25, 643.50, 643.75, 644.00, 644.25, 644.50, 644.75, 645.00, 645.25, 645.50, 645.75, 646.00, 646.25, 646.50, 646.75, 647.00, 647.25, 647.50, 647.75, 648.00, 648.25, 648.50, 648.75, 649.00, 649.25, 649.50, 649.75, 650.00, 650.25, 650.50, 650.75, 651.00, 651.25, 651.50, 651.75, 652.00, 652.25, 652.50, 652.75, 653.00, 653.25, 653.50, 653.75, 654.00, 654.25, 654.50, 654.75, 655.00, 655.25, 655.50, 655.75, 656.00, 656.25, 656.50, 656.75, 657.00, 657.25, 657.50, 657.75, 658.00, 658.25, 658.50, 658.75, 659.00, 659.25, 659.50, 659.75, 660.00, 660.25, 660.50, 660.75, 661.00, 661.25, 661.50, 661.75, 662.00, 662.25, 662.50, 662.75, 663.00, 663.25, 663.50, 663.75, 664.00, 664.25, 664.50, 664.75, 665.00, 665.25, 665.50, 665.75, 666.00, 666.25, 666.50, 666.75, 667.00, 667.25, 667.50, 667.75, 668.00, 668.25, 668.50, 668.75, 669.00, 669.25, 669.50, 669.75, 670.00, 670.25, 670.50, 670.75, 671.00, 671.25, 671.50, 671.75, 672.00, 672.25, 672.50, 672.75, 673.00, 673.25, 673.50, 673.75, 674.00, 674.25, 674.50, 674.75, 675.00, 675.25, 675.50, 675.75, 676.00, 676.25, 676.50, 676.75, 677.00, 677.25, 677.50, 677.75, 678.00, 678.25, 678.50, 678.75, 679.00, 679.25, 679.50, 679.75, 680.00, 680.25, 680.50, 680.75, 681.00, 681.25, 681.50, 681.75, 682.00, 682.25, 682.50, 682.75, 683.00, 683.25, 683.50, 683.75, 684.00, 684.25, 684.50,

Stock Exchange Prices

Nervous close to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Feb 22. Contango Day, Feb 25. Settlement Day, March 3.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1979-80 High Low Company	Price Ch'ge Pence % P.E.	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Ch'ge Pence % P.E.	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Ch'ge Pence % P.E.	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Ch'ge Pence % P.E.	1979-80 High Low Company	Price Ch'ge Pence % P.E.
BRITISH FUNDS									
British Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
British Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN									
Commonwealth Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Commonwealth Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
LOCAL AUTHORITIES									
Local Authority Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Local Authority Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
FOREIGN STOCKS									
Foreign Stock Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Foreign Stock Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
DOLLAR STOCKS									
Dollar Stock Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Dollar Stock Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
BANKS AND DISCOUNTS									
Bank and Discount Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Bank and Discount Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
BREWERS AND DISTILLERS									
Brewer and Distiller Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Brewer and Distiller Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL									
Commercial and Industrial Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Commercial and Industrial Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
SHIPPING									
Shipping Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Shipping Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
MINES									
Mine Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Mine Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
FINANCIAL TRUSTS									
Financial Trust Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Financial Trust Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
INSURANCE									
Insurance Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Insurance Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
Investment Trust Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Investment Trust Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
RUBBER									
Rubber Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Rubber Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
MISCELLANEOUS									
Miscellaneous Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00
Miscellaneous Fund	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00	99.50	100.00

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